

Sunday Worship
December 17, 2023

JOY



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third & Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a "prayer request" or a "praise report", please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Lost in the Night

Arr: Organ

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: **You love justice and You hate wrongdoing.**

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to You.

Make us glad to do Your will and to walk in Your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #248

People, Look East!

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray . . .

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of Your prophets, that, anointed by Your Spirit, we may testify to Your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1- 4, 8-11

R: ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride

adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 126

R: ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

C: ²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

R: ³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

C: ⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

R: ⁵Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

C: ⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:13-24

R: ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do this.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #103

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised; we will trust your Word.

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the One who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of His sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:

Sleeth - Reprinted with One License

Light one candle for hope
One bright candle for hope
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes

Light one candle for peace
One bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to ev'ry heart,
He comes, He comes

Light one candle for joy.
One bright candle for joy.
Ev'ry nation will find salvation
In Bethl'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love.
One bright candle for love.
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes.
He brings love to ev'ry heart,
He comes. He comes.

SERMON Pastor Dale Schaefer

HYMN Red Hymnal # 815

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the
dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He
is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to
judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS (*Response after each petition*)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer . . .**

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit
from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me
with Your free Spirit.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #277

Away in a Manger

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:
“Serving Christ through serving others.”**

P: Go in peace. Keep awake

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccatina on “Joy to the World”

Arr: Portman

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Earl & Cindy Moore in appreciation to the Zion Church family for all of your
prayers and support this past year .*

*Prayer concerns for Zion’s prayer chain may be submitted
using a ‘Prayer Request’ card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor
Acolyte

Dale Schaefer
Jason Schlater

Greeters: Madison Dorn
Marissa Kessler
Elyse Masin
Hannah Kessler
Alex Garvic
Noah Garvic

Readers: Julie Sebastian - 1st Reading
Madison Dorn - Psalm
John Sebastian - 2nd Reading
Marissa Kessler - Gospel

Ushers: Charlotte Dorn
Rowan Masin
Carly Schlater
Owen Vonderheide

ATTENDANCE 12/9 & 10: 120
Unified Giving 12/9 & 10: \$4,696.00

Sunday School: Adults 15
Youth & Kids 7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION OF THE MONTH: *ELCA GOOD GIFTS*

On the Christmas tree in the lounge area, you will find ornaments that have pictures of animals and other needed items for those in need throughout the world. For example, you may pay for ten chicks for \$10, honeybees for \$20, seeds and gardening tools for \$50, a clinic visit for a child for \$10. You can also donate any amount of money and the Women of Zion can put the money toward a more expensive animal - like a goat for \$50!

Please take an ornament and return it with a check made payable to Women of Zion. Please place your check in the basket on the table in the lounge.

Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

ADVENT DATES:

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24th, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

There is NO Sunday School that morning

Regular church service at 10:00 am and Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm

MEMBERSHIP FORMS: If you have not done so already, please fill out a membership form so we can update our records to have an accurate roster. There are blank forms on the table in the narthex, as well as a collection box for completed ones.

2024 FLOWER CHART: The chart to sign up for flowers next year is posted in the fellowship hallway. ***Please indicate what they are honoring and color choices.***

COUNCIL ELECTION: On Sunday, December 31st, there is a special congregational meeting after service. Council will present the vote on nominations for the vacant council seats. Saturday evening services will be given ballots and the results will be added to Sunday's vote.

Staff

Dale Schaefer, *Interim Pastor*; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn, *Christian Education Director*;
Annette Calicoat, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*;
Tina Putnam, *Sexton*

