

**Sunday Worship**  
**December 31, 2023**  
**1st Sunday of Christmas**



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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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**

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*

Arr: Yeager

## **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, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of life,

C: **You promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of Your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

- C:** Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life  
in You. Amen.
- P:** Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✚ Jesus we are forgiven and  
redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the  
salvation of God.
- C:** Amen.

**HYMN Red hymnal #272**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**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:** Almighty God, You wonderfully created the dignity of human nature  
and yet more wonderfully restored it. In Your mercy, let us share the  
divine life of the One who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ,  
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10- 62:3**

**R:** <sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>For 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. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's  
sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her  
vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The  
nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be  
called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a  
crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your  
God.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 148**

R: <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: <sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

R: <sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: <sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

R: <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

C: <sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

R: <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: <sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

R: <sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C: <sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

R: <sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C: <sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

R: <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C: <sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

R: <sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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 **Luke 2:22-40**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**SERMON** Pastor Dale Schaefer

**HYMN** Red Hymnal # 298

*The Bells of Christmas*

## 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: God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #313**

*O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*

## DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

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

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace, Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (Suo Gan)* Arr: Biery

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by Brad Kennedy in memory of mom and dad.*

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

## In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Reader	Debbie Weprin
Communion Assist	Linda Holt
Greeters	Chuck & Erma Swanson
Ushers	John & Jill Greer

**ATTENDANCE 12/23 & 24:**121

**Christmas Eve:** 144

**Unified Giving 12/23 & 24:** \$5,209.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COUNCIL ELECTION:** Right after service today, there is a special congregational meeting. Council will present the vote on nominations for the vacant council seats. Saturday evening services were given ballots and the results will be added to today’s vote.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the back of the church. They are in alphabetical order and can be taken home today. **Please do not use the envelopes UNTIL the first Sunday in January, the 7th.** New numbers have been assigned to some of the boxes.

**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:** There are still openings to sign up to donate flowers. The chart to sign up is posted in the fellowship hallway. ***Please indicate what they are honoring and color choices.***

**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.

**THIS WEEK AT ZION**

<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	No Sunday School	
<b>Monday, January 1</b>	Office Closed	Happy New Year!
<b>Tuesday, January 2</b>	10:00 am 8:00 - 9:00 pm	Mission Quilts AA
<b>Wednesday, January 3</b>	No Choir	

**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*









