

**Sunday Worship**  
**December 15, 2024**

*JOY*



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

*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Still, Still, Still*

Arr. Martin

## 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, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of mercy,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom

we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #843**

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

**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 preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

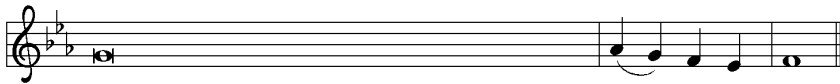
**KYRIE Red hymnal #98**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



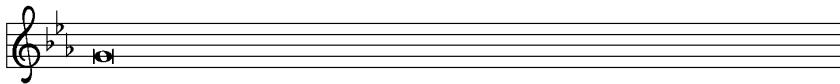
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



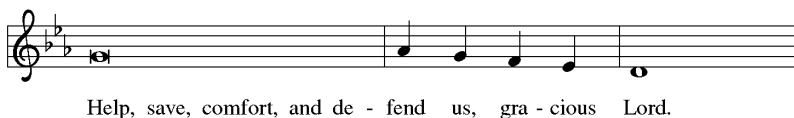
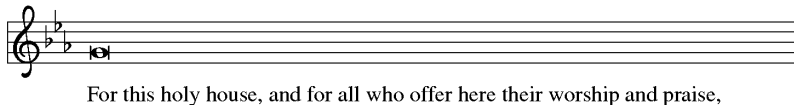
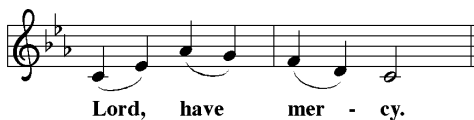
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - HYMN OF PRAISE

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 Beth'lem's baby boy.

*Sleeth—Reprinted with permission from One License.*

**CHANCEL CHOIR** Director Bill Jones

*What Feast of Love*

Music: Brian Wentzel Text: Delores Dufner

### THE WORD

#### **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

R: <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments

against you, He has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6**

R: <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

C: <sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

R: <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

C: <sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

R: <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

R: <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 3:7-18**

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

P: <sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Pastor Jaren Summers

**HYMN** Purple Hymnal #901

*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

## **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.

**COMMUNION PREFACE #107 & 108**

*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

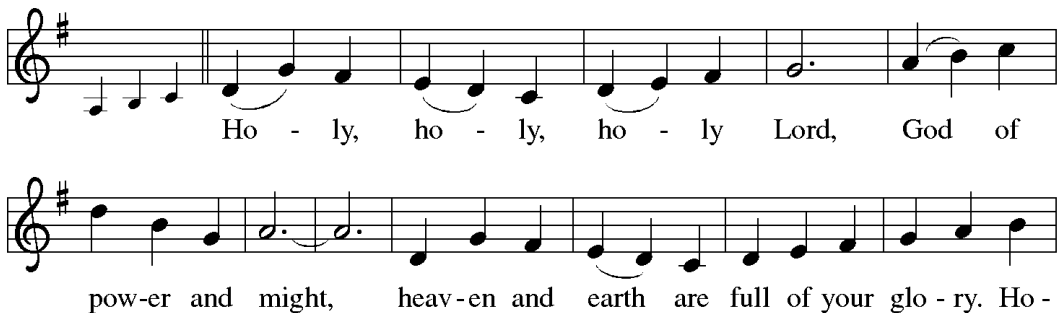
P: Lift up your hearts

C: **We lift them to the Lord**

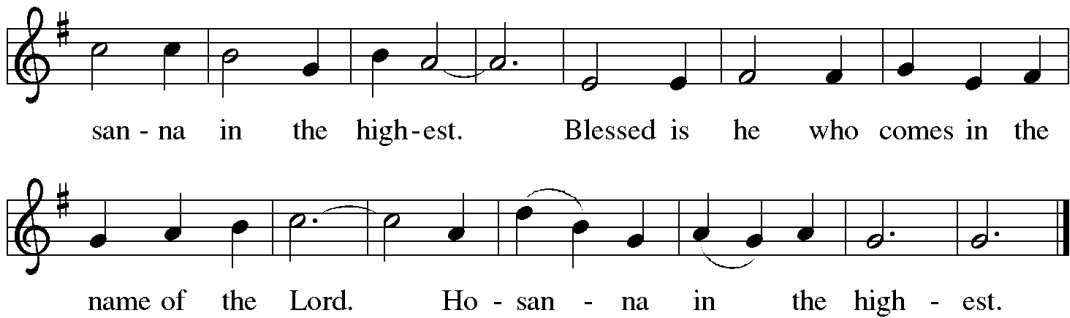
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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 of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### HYMN Red hymnal #264

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

### 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. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*People Still Look East*

Arr. Wold