

**Sunday Worship**  
**December 22, 2024**

*LOVE*



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

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Arr. Turner

## 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 #265

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

### 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

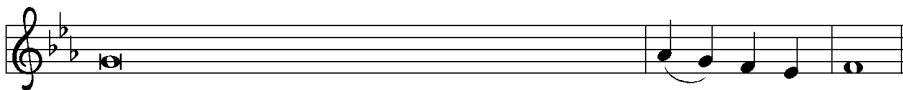
### KYRIE Red hymnal #98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



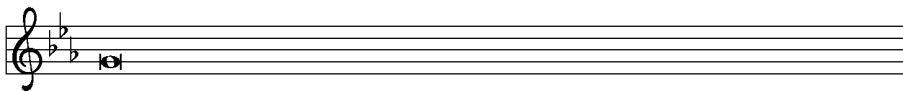
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



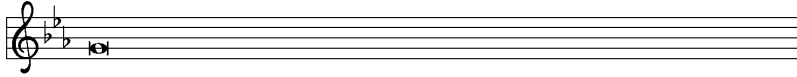
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## 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.

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.

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**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

R: <sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Luke 1:46b-55**

R: <sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**C: <sup>48</sup>for You, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

R: <sup>49</sup>You, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

**C: <sup>50</sup>You have mercy on those who fear You, from generation to generation.**

R: <sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**C: <sup>52</sup>casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

R: <sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

**C: <sup>54</sup>You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,**

R: <sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

R: <sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to

the law),<sup>9</sup> then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.<sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-45**

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

P: <sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Pastor Jaren Summers

**HYMN Red Hymnal #257 (v5-8)**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

### **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 #439

*Soon and Very Soon*

### 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

*The King Shall Come*

Arr. Burkhardt