

# Zion Lutheran Church



December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Third Sunday in Advent



## [Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool!](#)

Thank you for joining us in worship of the Lord. We would love to get to know you, and for you to learn more about our church family at Zion. Please stop by our welcome table as you leave worship. We cordially invite you to talk with Pastor Grimenstein, our Elders, or any of our church members to learn more about our fellowship. At our website -- [zlc.org](http://zlc.org) -- you can find out more about the many worship, Christian education, and fellowship opportunities at Zion.

### **Communion Statement**

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, Christ's physical body and blood are present in the bread and wine (1 Cor. 11:23-25). We also believe receiving the Lord's Supper is an act of church fellowship. Scripture cautions that those who receive without recognizing Christ's body and blood will bring judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Therefore, out of love to our guests, we invite to our altar to receive the Lord's Supper those who are baptized, confirmed, repentant members of Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod congregations or sister congregations. If you are visiting us today from another Christian denomination, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.

In preparation to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner please consider reading "Christian Questions with their Answers" on Page 329-330. If you are interested in exploring membership, please talk with Pastor Grimenstein or call the church office.

### **Our Worship**

Our worship services are based on traditional church liturgies in which God speaks to us in His Word and we respond to Him. These liturgies were used by the early church almost 2000 years ago and are rich in scriptural meaning, connecting us to our past -- and future -- in Christ Jesus. There is a depth to Lutheran worship that can take time to appreciate, thus you may find that you don't understand everything that is happening the first week you visit. That's OK, we encourage you to keep visiting!

Opening Hymn -- Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I

pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Service of the Word

Introit -- Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7



**P** Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

**C** Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his | people.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,  
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,  
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him  
and make his foot- | steps a way.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son  
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

**P** Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,  
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



### Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Old Testament Reading --Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Men's Choir** -- *Savior of the Nations Come* (8:00 am)

**Grace Bell Choir** -- *Lo! He comes with Clouds Descending* (10:30 am)

### **Epistle Reading -- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia



### Holy Gospel

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.



Hymn of the Day -- Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding #345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

### Gathering of Offerings

*Offering plates are located on the tables at the main and side entrance to the sanctuary.*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** ... Let us pray to the Lord.

**C** ... Lord have mercy.

### Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini



- P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



- C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



- O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

### Distribution

*If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.*

### Distribution Hymns

When All the World Was Cursed	#346
The Night Will Soon Be Ending	#337
Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness	#563

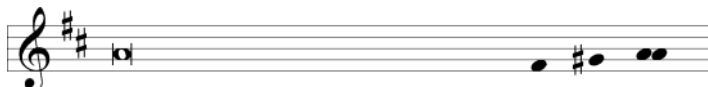
### Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,




which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

### Benedicamus

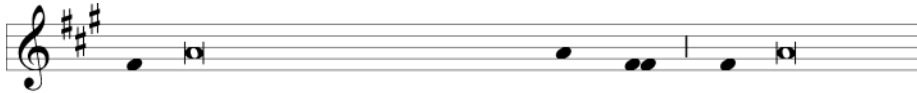


**A** Bless we the Lord.

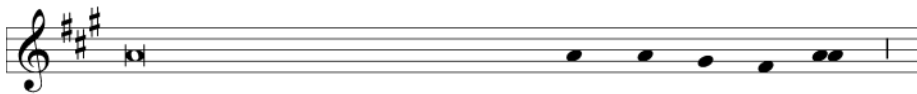


**C** Thanks be to God.

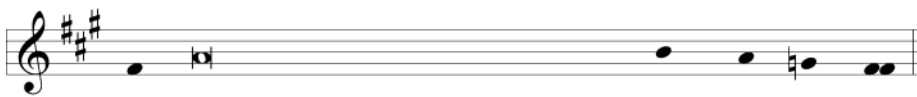
### Benediction



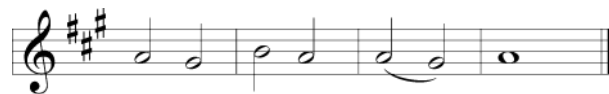
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{†}$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn -- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



*Refrain*  
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
 And open wide our heav'nly home;  
 Make safe the way that leads on high,  
 And close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 In one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
 And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain



## Prayer Requests for Family & Friends

### *The Church:*

- For our homebound members:** Florence Boehme.
- Healing & Strength for:** Amy Eastman (sister-in-law of Connie Canale), Celia Evans, Amy (niece of Jodi Fitzgerald), Natalie Cicioni (Ryan Cicioni's sister), Michelle Hopkins (sister of Mark Killinger), Pam Riley (friend of Bobbie Hoelle), Tom & Kim Erbrecht, Mary Lou Neill, Dante (cousin of Maryann McClure), Pastor Ernest Knoche, Jen Fitzgerald, Barbara & Kara Koski, Mike Wallace, Joanne Garloff, Richard Hultman, Rita Sheldon, Dennis & Esther Finney, Eva Bukovitz, Judy Graziano, Alyssa Mance, Shannon Mance, Dave Hutula, and Mabel Granke.
- For the ministry of Zion Lutheran Sunday School and Preschool.

### *The World:*

- For peace in Ukraine and Israel.
- For an end to abortion and human trafficking.
- For the youth in our community.

### *Our Nation:*

- For our leaders and government officials.
- For those in foster care and those looking to adopt.
- For the disabled, unborn and aged.



## *Service Participants*

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein
<b>Music Director:</b>	Mark Killinger
<b>Organist:</b>	Sandy Quinlan
<b>Elders:</b>	Bob Schmidt & Sam Garloff (8:00) Bill Bishop & Jim Neill (10:30)
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Claire Schrag (8:00); Madison Killinger (10:30)
<b>Ushers:</b>	Bill, Ken & Will Schrag; Jason Trentini (8:00) John, Liz, Luke & Johnny Lemonovich (10:30)
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Janet & Marian Oelschlager

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Paul & Nancy Klemash in celebration of brother-in-law Dave's birthday; and by Brent & Marianne Miller in memory of Darlene Pirmez.

**ETERNAL LIGHT** is given by Judy Bridges in memory of husband H. Lane Bridges who would have turned 70 on Dec. 21st.

**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the back of the sanctuary. All members have envelopes, except those who contribute online.



From our Financial Secretary: *Thank you for your support over the past year. Your giving has enabled our church to complete several capital improvements, as well as support mission projects. We look forward to heading into 2024 with you and continuing to share the Word of God with our community.*

### Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (12/10) -- 70 (8 am); 102 (10:30 am)

Mid-Week Worship (12/13) -- 25 (2 pm); 37 (7 pm)


Plate Offerings (12/10) -- \$2643 Online Offering -- \$1093.65

*Online giving is available on Zion's website - [www.zlcb.org/donate](http://www.zlcb.org/donate)*





## *This Week at Zion*

<b>SUN</b> <b>12/17</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	8:00 AM -- Worship 9:15 AM -- Adult/Teen Bible Study & Sunday School Christmas Party 10:30 AM -- Worship
<b>MON</b> <b>12/18</b>	6:30 PM -- Faith Bell Choir
<b>TUE</b> <b>12/19</b>	6:15 PM -- Grace Bells 7:15 PM -- Choir
<b>WED</b> <b>12/20</b>	2:00 PM -- Mid-Week Advent Worship Service -- Week 3 7:00 PM -- Mid-Week Advent Worship Service -- Week 3
<b>THU</b> <b>12/21</b>	
<b>FRI</b> <b>12/22</b>	
<b>SAT</b> <b>12/23</b>	
<b>SUN</b> <b>12/24</b> Christmas Eve	2:00 PM -- Afternoon Worship Service (prelude begins at 1:30) 7:00 PM -- Candlelight Worship Service (prelude begins at 6:00)
<b>MON</b> <b>12/25</b> Christmas	10:00 AM -- Worship Service 

## Our final Mid-week Advent Services ...



... are Wednesday at 2 & 7 pm.  
Join us as we prepare our hearts  
and minds for the birth of our  
Savior!



### There will be three opportunities for Christmas worship at Zion:

- \* Christmas Eve (Sunday 12/24) service at 2 pm
- \* Christmas Eve (Sunday 12/24) service at 7 pm
- \* Christmas Day (Monday 12/25) service at 10 am



### *Prelude of special Christmas music ...*

will be played prior to the start of each Christmas Eve Worship Service.  
The afternoon prelude will begin at 1:30 pm; evening prelude at 6:00  
pm. Come early to enjoy the beautiful sounds of this holy season!

PLEASE  
NOTE:  
Because  
Christmas  
Eve falls on  
a Sunday,  
there will be  
no morning  
services, or  
SS, on  
Sunday  
12/24

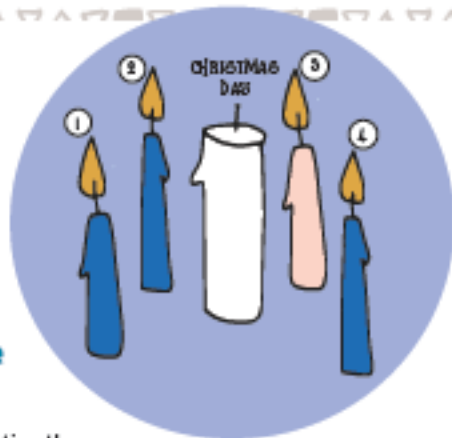


*Interested in becoming a member?*

Pastor Grimenstein will be starting an Adult Confirmation Class on **Thurs., January 11th at 6:00** for those interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith who are considering church membership. The class is also open to current members interested in a "refresher" on the basics of the faith. The class will meet **every Thursday from 6:00-6:45** for six weeks and will cover topics ranging from Baptism to the Ten Commandments.

Please email Zion secretary Susie Bishop [secretary@zlcb.org](mailto:secretary@zlcb.org) to let her know you're interested in joining the class.

## KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



### What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

### What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!



#### Parents:

Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the lives of all Christians. This is the time in the Church Year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

