

Sunday Worship
December 7, 2025

PEACE



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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord’s table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Arr. Ferguson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS James 5:16; 1John 1:8-9

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in**

**your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #244

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY 2 Corinthians 13:13

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - ELW #240

Light two candles to watch for Messiah

Let the light banish darkness

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

Gently lead hem homeward.

CHANCEL CHOIR Director Bill Jones

Run to Bethlehem

Words: Charlotte Lee Music: Douglas Wagner

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

R: ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live

with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7, 18-19

R: ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C: ² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

R: ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: ⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

R: ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C: ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

R: ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

C: ¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**

R: ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

R: ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”;
¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #257 (v 1 & 7) Isaiah 7:14

**O Come O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 3:1-12**

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

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?” ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume 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. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Jaren Summers

HYMN Red Hymnal #249 (v 1-3) *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

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*) 1 Timothy 2:1-2

P: Lord in your mercy,

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

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Psalm 51:10-12

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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
(This liturgy comes from Hippolytus who was a bishop in Rome writing around 215 AD. Hippolytus was recording the liturgy as it had been practiced up to that point, having been handed down by the apostles. Today we are celebrating communion as it was celebrated over 1800 years ago!)

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

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 Numbers 6:23-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #260 (v 1,4,5)

The King Shall Come

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

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

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

Arr. Ferguson

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Judy & Chalmer Mader in celebration of their 63rd anniversary.*

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

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Jaren Summers
Communion Assist	Doug Jacobs
Reader	Julia Helke
Ushers	Richard & Debbie Geiman
Greeters	Raenell & Sean Poynter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION OF THE MONTH: *ELCA GOOD GIFTS*

On the Christmas tree in the narthex, 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 narthex by December 31st. Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

A FLOWER CHART for 2026 has been posted. The cost is \$45 for 2 bouquets again. Please indicate what they are in celebration or memory of and the colors you want. We can only chose colors, not the type of flower.

2026 CALENDARS are available in in the Narthex. The cost is \$15. There is an envelope on the table for the money. Proceeds go to youth gathering fund.

ADVENT SCHEDULE:

Advent Service	December 10th	6:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service	December 24th	7:00 pm

CHEER PLATES are being put together on Monday, December 15th at 10:00 am. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hallway to donate food, assemble the plates and deliver them.

ZION'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026 On the table in the narthex there are two forms; a schedule for the activities planned for 2026 and a member questionnaire. Please fill out the questionnaire and place it in the box on the table. Thanks!