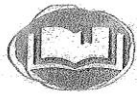


# Third Sunday In Advent

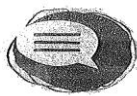
December 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Psalm 126:3

Opening Song

## O Come All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye bright hosts of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Ministry Spotlight

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Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

People: The promised Messiah came! We celebrate the Advent of His coming. Emmanuel is God with us, and Christ will come again! He is the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all!  
God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Let us come to Him then with an honest heart to worship Him in spirit and truth.

## Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We confess our need of forgiveness, and that God's forgiveness is the gift that leads to newness of life. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger, died on a cross, and risen from the grave: All to redeem us from sin, death, the devil, and our sinful self. As Paul wrote in Romans 3 "This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance God had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Jesus laid down His life for our sins to be forgiven. He cleanses us, and calls us clean as we believe and receive His reconciliation. As you have confessed and believed, as a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and according to His Word, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

## Pastor: Daily Text

God is not a human being, that He should lie, or a mortal, that He should change His mind.

Numbers 23:19

As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been "Yes and No." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No"; but in Him it is always "Yes."

1 Corinthians 1:18-19

Let us pray:

People: Eternal Yes, I thank You and Your Son Jesus Christ, for Your steadfast faithfulness revealed both in His humanity and divinity. Forgive me as I so easily change my mind about the depth of Your love. Yet Your mind is made up. You affirm me as Your beloved child. Let my words today proclaim Your yes in Christ. Amen.

## Scripture Lessons Read

### First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup> 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; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

### Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! <sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! <sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

### Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

### Gospel Lesson

John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> 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?" <sup>23</sup> 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." <sup>24</sup> (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup> even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup> These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

### **Apostles' Creed**

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Sermon Song**

### **What Child Is This?**

**What Child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through the cross be born, for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; the Virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

Sermon/Watchword      Talk --- New, Knew, Next

Pr Knoll

May The God Of Peace Sanctify You Entirely; And May Your Spirit And Soul And Body  
Be Kept Sound And Blameless At the Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Offering Anthem

Mary, Did You Know?

## Prayers of the Church      Pray

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with these **words...**

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: Amen.

## The **Lord's** Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: 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

## Benediction      Bless

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.

May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:(Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Blessing: Child of God, may the God of Peace sanctify you entirely.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

## Closing Song      **Hark The Herald Angels Sing / King Of Heaven**

**Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise - join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King**

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace - hail the Son of righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings - risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by - born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth - born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King**

**King of Heaven come down  
King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us  
You are strong to save  
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come**

*Interlude  
Oh oh*

**Christ by highest heaven adored - Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come - offspring of a virgin's womb  
Mild He lays His glory by - born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth - born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King the newborn King**

**King of Heaven come down  
King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
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King of Heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us  
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In Your mighty name King of Heaven come**

**King of Heaven come King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven come King of Heaven come  
King of Heaven come down  
King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
King of Heaven come**

**SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE**

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. If you are a visitor please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God from Barb Lett.

The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

**The December Newsletter** is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

**The Mission of the Month for December** is blankets for Church World Services. See the article in the December newsletter. Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this mission.

**Poinsettias** are again available to decorate the church for the Christmas season. The cost is \$20. Please use the Mission Envelope to place your order and indicate who the plant is in honor/memory of.

**Food Pantry Volunteer Needs!** Help is needed collecting food at the Celebration of Lights! We have 4 nights to staff this year from 12/28-12/31. Please contact Pr Ritchie about whatever you can do to help. In addition to these nights, we will need help during regular pantry hours to sort the food during the following weeks.

### **Bible Studies/Small Groups**

**Wednesday 6:00pm** G.I.F.T.

**Thursday 6:00pm** Knowing and Experiencing God

Worship at Zion

**Wednesday 7:00pm** Advent Worship

Saturday 5:00pm Chapel Service

Sunday 8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:00am Swahili-English Worship

### **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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