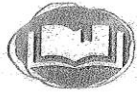


# Fourth Sunday In Advent

December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all. *Psalm 34:19*

## Opening Song

### Joy To The World/Unspeakable Joy

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Joy unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul  
Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders wonders of His love

Joy unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul  
Never lets me go

## 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

For You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. *Psalm 71:5*

In hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. *Romans 8:24-25*

Let us pray:

**People: Precious Jesus, You fill me with joy and peace as I trust in You. I am eternally grateful that You saved me. Your Spirit lives within me, and You will bring me home with You for all eternity. I cling to You, my rock and my redeemer. Bless me with confident, patient anticipation, for You are my hope. Amen.**

## Scripture Lessons *Read*

### The First Lesson

*Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth 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 given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

### The Second Lesson

*Luke 1:46b-55*

<sup>46b</sup> "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

### The Third Lesson

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

<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, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order

to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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*

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:39-55

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my

Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby 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 from the Lord." <sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

<sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

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.**

**People:** 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**

**He Shall Reign Forevermore**

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans  
And for a world in darkness frozen like a stone  
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

If I were a wiseman I would travel far  
If I were a shepherd I would do my part  
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies  
This Baby born for sacrifice Christ, The Messiah

Into our hopes, into our fears  
The Savior of the world appears  
The promise of eternal years  
Christ, The Messiah  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Unto us a Child is born  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore

**Sermon/Watchword**

*Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Knoll

God Has Brought Down The Powerful From Their Thrones And Lifted Up The Lowly

## Offering Song

## O Little Town Of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light:  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

## 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:**<sub>(Sung)</sub> **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Blessing:** Child of God, God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

Pastor: Our worship continues,  
People: **our service begins!**

## Closing Song

## Little Drummer Boy

Come they told me parum pum pum pum  
A newborn King to see parum pum pum pum  
Our finest gifts we bring parum pum pum pum  
To lay before the King parum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum - rum pum pum pum  
So to honor Him parum pum pum pum  
When we come

Baby Jesus parum pum pum pum  
I am a poor boy too parum pum pum pum  
I have no gift to bring parum pum pum pum  
That's fit to give our King parum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum - rum pum pum pum  
Shall I play for you parum pum pum pum  
On my drum

Mary nodded parum pum pum pum  
The ox and lamb kept time parum pum pum pum  
I played my drum for Him parum pum pum pum  
I played my best for Him parum pum pum pum  
Rum pum pum pum - rum pum pum pum  
Then He smiled at me parum pum pum pum  
Me and my drum

## 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 in loving memory of Bucky and Sugar from Lori and Mike Wiedenhaft.

**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 \$22. Please use the Mission Envelope to place your order and indicate who the plant is in honor/memory of.

**Offering envelopes for 2025** are now out in the mailboxes in the hallway. If you cannot find yours, please let us know.

**Bible Studies/Small Groups**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Worship at Zion</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	<i>Family Christmas Eve Worship</i>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<i>Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Worship</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<i>Christmas Day Worship</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Chapel Service
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Worship
	<b>9:30am</b>	G.I.F.T. Worship
	<b>11:30am</b>	Swahili-English Worship

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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