

Fourth Sunday In Advent

December 21st 2025 8:00am & 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Psalm 80:3

Opening Song

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Ministry Spotlight

Share

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

All these things my hand has made, so all these things are mine, says the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word. *Isaiah 66:2*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy. *Titus 3:4-5*

Let us pray:

People: **Gracious God, all that I am and all that I have are gifts from You. I humbly acknowledge that salvation depends on Your mercy, not my good works. Forgive my times of self-reliance. Teach me to walk in obedience to Your word. Make me an instrument of Your goodness and loving kindness to bless the lives of others. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you

weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-19

¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁴ O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! ⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. ⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. ¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. ¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River. ¹² Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? ¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. ¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine ¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. ¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face! ¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! ¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! ¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

The Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: Please rise as you are able 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

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the

Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

Holy Forever

**A thousand generations
Falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb**

**Jesus - Your Name is the highest
Your Name is the greatest
Your Name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your Name stands above them all**

**And the angels cry – Holy - all creation cries - Holy
You are lifted high – Holy - Holy forever**

If you've been forgiven
And if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom
If you bear His Name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

And the angels cry – Holy - all creation cries - Holy
You are lifted high – Holy - Holy forever

Hear your people sing – Holy - to the King of kings - Holy
You will always be – Holy - Holy forever

Jesus - Your Name is the highest
Your Name is the greatest
Your Name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your Name stands above them all

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You will always be – Holy - Holy forever

Sermon/Watchword *Talk --- New, Knew, Next* Pr Knoll
Restore Us, O Lord God Of Hosts; Let Your Face Shine, That We May Be Saved

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.
Shalom. Shalom.

People: Amen.

Blessing: Child of God, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: our service begins!

Closing Song

Angels We Have Heard On High

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo - Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song
Gloria, in excelsis Deo - Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore, on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria, in excelsis Deo - Gloria in excelsis Deo**

**See within a manger laid Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise
Gloria, in excelsis Deo - Gloria in excelsis Deo**

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 memory of her dad, Vernon (Bucky) Wiedenhaft from Lori Wiedenhaft.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Debbie and Tod Schmick on the death of Debbie's mother, Rose Kromm.

A new local ministry will be the recipient of our Mission of the Month gifts for December. Damascus Road Project, a nearly 100% specially trained volunteer run 501(c)3 non-profit organization is dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. See the article in the December newsletter for more information.

The December Newsletter is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office. *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.*

Worship at Zion

Christmas Eve	5:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Worship
	7:00pm	Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Worship
Christmas Day	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship
Saturday (27 Dec)	<u>NO</u>	Chapel Service
Sunday (28 Dec)	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
	11:30am	Swahili-English Worship

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Charter Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
400 N Sawyer Street Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902 920-235-4430
www.zionoshkosh.com zionlutheran@ntd.net

