

# Third Sunday In Advent

December 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 5:00pm December 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 8:00am & 9:30am



Share

Read

Talk

Pray

Bless

**Preparation For Worship:** The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord! *Psalm 146:10*

## Opening Song

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord:  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.**

**Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

**Hail, the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!**

**Light and life to all He brings, ris'n 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."**

**Come, Desire of nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home:  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed, bruise in us the serpent's head;  
Adam's likeness now efface, stamp Thine image in its place;  
Second Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy love.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

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

To You, O Lord, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me.

*Psalms 28:1*

The centurion asked Jesus, "But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed."

*Luke 7:7*

Pastor: Let us pray:

**People: You are my rock, Lord Jesus. Why then do I become anxious and afraid? Speak the word and I will again rest in peace and security. Instill in me the faith of the centurion. Thank You that You never refuse to listen to me. I will trust Your unchanging love and mighty power to provide refuge and safety. Amen.**

### **Scripture Lessons**     *Read*

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of

Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God, <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. <sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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*

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup> Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft

clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise be to You, O Christ.

### **Nicene Creed**

**People:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Sermon Song**

### **Build My Life**

Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You

Jesus the name above every other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You – we live for You

Holy - there is no one like You  
There is none beside You - open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are - and fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me

Worthy of every song we could ever sing

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**Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe - we live for You**

**Jesus the name above every other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You – we live for You**

**Holy - there is no one like You  
There is none beside You - open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are - and fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me**

**I will build my life upon Your love - it is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone - and I will not be shaken  
I will build my life upon Your love - it is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone - and I will not be shaken**

**Holy - there is no one like You  
There is none beside You - open up my eyes in wonder  
And show me who You are - and fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me**

**Jesus the name above every other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You – we live for You**

**Sermon/Watchword**

*Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Knoll

**Be Strong, Do Not Fear! Here Is Your God**

**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.**

**Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus**

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**People<sup>(sung)</sup>: Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes, in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Words Of Institution**

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat, this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." Again after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of Me."

### **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**

### **Distribution Of Holy Communion**

*All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.*

### **Communion Song**

#### **Here's My Heart**

**Here's my heart, Lord - here's my heart, Lord  
Here's my heart, Lord - speak what is true**

**Here's my heart, Lord - here's my heart, Lord  
Here's my heart, Lord - speak what is true**

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**'Cause I am found - I am Yours - I am loved - I'm made pure**

I have life - I can breathe - I am healed - I am free

Here's my heart, Lord - here's my heart, Lord

Here's my heart, Lord - speak what is true

'Cause I am found - I am Yours - I am loved - I'm made pure

I have life - I can breathe - I am healed - I am free

'Cause You are strong - You are sure - You are life - You endure

You are good - always true - You are light - breaking through

Here's my heart, Lord - here's my heart, Lord

Here's my heart, Lord - speak what is true

Here's my life, Lord - here's my life, Lord

Here's my life, Lord - speak what is true

'Cause You are strong - You are sure - You are life - You endure

You are good - always true - You are light - breaking through

You are more than enough - You are here - You are love

You are hope - You are grace

You're all I have - You're everything

Here's my heart, Lord - here's my heart, Lord

Here's my heart, Lord - speak what is true

Speak what is true - speak what is true

### **Nunc Dimittis**

**Pastor:** Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

**People:** **For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.**

**Pastor:** Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**People:** **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**

### **Jesus Messiah**

**He became sin who knew no sin - that we might become His righteousness;**

**He humbled Himself, and carried the cross - Love so amazing, love so amazing.**

**Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, - the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**His body the bread, His blood the wine - broken and poured out, all for love.  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Love so amazing, love so amazing.**

**Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, - the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.  
All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.**

**Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names; Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.  
The Rescue for sinners, - the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.**

**Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.**

**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 honor of the birthday of Jesus from Diane Mueller.

**Our sincere sympathy** is extended to Tod & Debbie Schmick on the death of Tod's father, Larry.

**A new local ministry** is 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 dedicated to fighting the evil of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. See the article in the newsletter for more information.

**If you would like to support Jericho Road Ministries** at the Celebration of Lights and donate food and hygiene items to our food program, Zion will be at the gate at E.A.A. Friday, 19 Dec, 5:15pm-9:00pm.

**Instead of poinsettias**, for this year's Christmas listing in memory of, or in honor of loved ones we encourage you to make a donation of any amount to our food program. Use the Mission Envelopes for this gift and indicate what you would like put in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day handout.

**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.*

**Bible Studies at Zion**

**Monday 1:00pm**

**Wednesday 6:00pm**

**Worship at Zion**

**Saturday 5:00pm** Chapel Service (*the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Saturday of each month*)

**Sunday 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](http://www.zionoshkosh.com)

zionlutheran@ntd.net