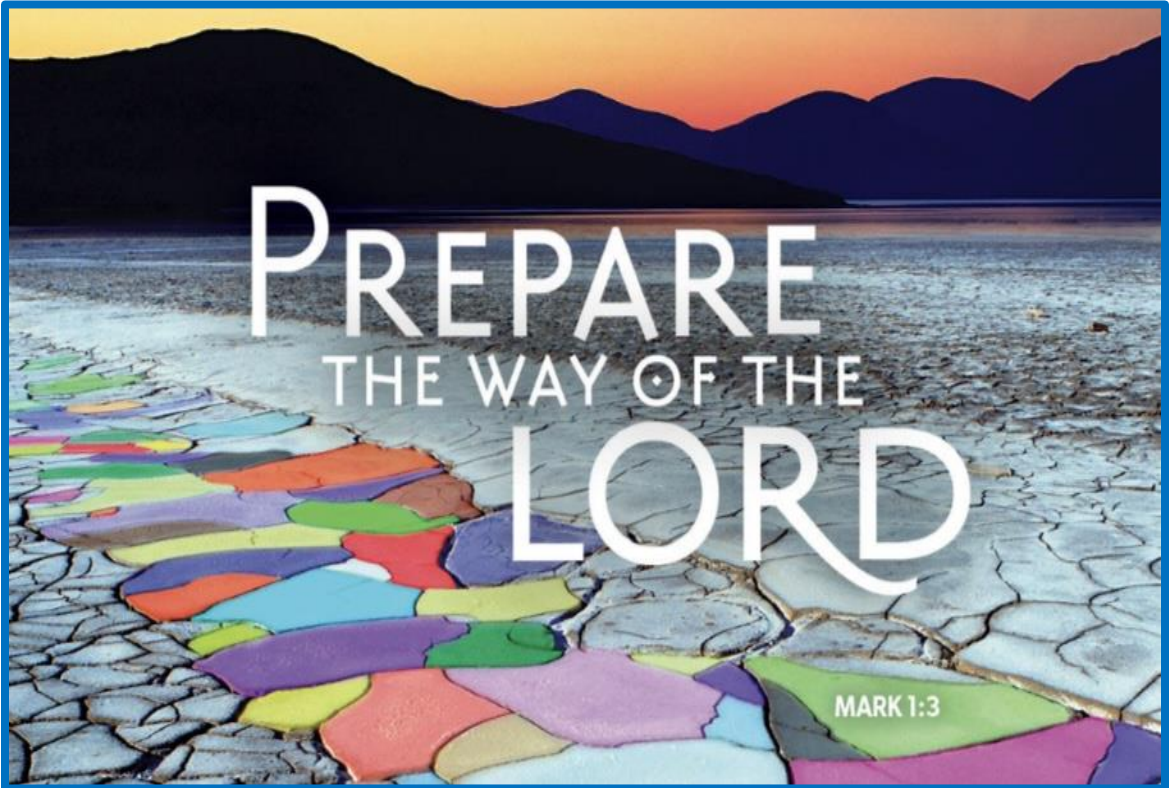


SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Service of Word & Sacrament

December 10, 2023



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

85 E. Brandt Boulevard

Landisville, PA

Connecting with God; Connecting with others; Connecting others with God

GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME TO ZION! We are glad you have chosen to worship with us in-person or online today! For in-person worshippers, all words and parts of the service will be projected on the screen in the front of the sanctuary. If you prefer a printed bulletin, they are available on the table in the narthex by the entrance to the sanctuary. The service contains the four parts of the Lutheran liturgy (The Gathering, The Word, The Meal, and The Sending). If you have any questions concerning our service, please do not hesitate to talk with our pastor, Pastor Tim.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

IN-PERSON: All are invited to join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday morning.

ONLINE: Indoor worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live. If you are unable or prefer not to watch during the live-stream, the recording is available to view any time after the service concludes. When the service is held outdoors, there will be no live-stream.

FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON

- ❖ Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the narthex and in the hallway off the back door. Infant changing tables can be found in the women's and men's bathrooms in the hallway off the back door.
- ❖ Children are welcome to be active participants in the worship service. There are bags located at the back of the sanctuary with quiet worship activities and goodies to take home. Currently, nursery care is not available but you may use the parlor as a cry room while also still being able to listen to the service.
- ❖ Ushers are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating, assist with other matters, and to answer questions.
- ❖ Mask wearing is optional for all who attend or participate in indoor gatherings, including worship, at the church.

Second Sunday of Advent

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation (bolded)

† THE GATHERING †

INTRODUCTION

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Kenneth T. Kosche

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: **Amen.**

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Refrain

Kyrie Eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the Church.
For the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain.*
2. That we may live out your impassioned response
To the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family;
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*
4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives
In the water and the word;
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain*

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

† **THE WORD** †

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile.

A: ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Please read responsively.

A: ¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: ²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Waiting for and hastening the day of God.

A: ⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

In Silence We Wait

Lloyd Larson

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING/CHILDREN'S CHAT

Lisa/Jo: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. We light the candles of Hope and Peace.

Pastor and L/J: Say it with us: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again!

C: Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again.

L/J: Mark 3:12

After Jesus cast out the unclean spirits and the unclean spirits tried to tell everyone he was the Messiah, "Jesus gave the unclean spirits strict orders not to tell anyone about him."

L/J: Why did the unclean spirits try to tell everyone that Jesus was the Messiah? We thought the unclean spirits were against Jesus.

P: Because Jesus knew that the unclean spirits would try to mislead everyone in understanding how Jesus was the Messiah. We always want a Messiah who says "We're Number One!" and "We get to boss everyone around!" But Jesus is the Messiah who says, "Anyone who wants to be first must be last and the servant of all."

L/J: We light the first two Advent candles as a reminder that Jesus casts out our unclean spirits of wanting to always be first and the boss of others. Let us pray. Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly and cast out any unclean spirit in us and renew us with your Holy Spirit so that we might seek to become first and greatest by becoming the servant of all. Amen.

Pastor and L/J: "I want to be last! Let me serve you first." "No, I want to be last! Please, let me serve you first!"

All: We get to be last and first together!

ADVENT SONG

He Came Down

ELW 253

2. He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
Hallelujah forevermore!

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications Inc.

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

King of Kings

BB 69

(Sing twice thru.)

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah!

Mark 1:1-8

John appears from the wilderness.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

P: ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild

honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

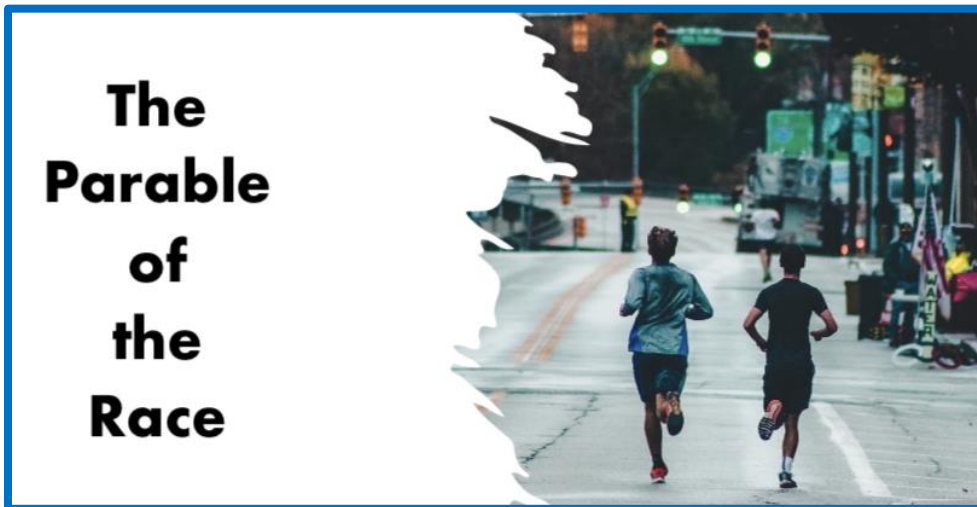
The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Timothy Seitz-Brown



The world in which Jesus arrived was a mess!



How do we "prepare the Way of the Lord" when the world is a mess? Repent!

Defect (that is, repent) from

both Dominating Empire and Toxic Religion...

and move into

the Peaceable Kingdom of Christ right now!



The Reality

A few people are ready to take the plunge, going "all in"

while most people (including people like me?)

aren't ready to jump into the Lord's Deep End.



How Lutherans look at "repentance"

- Daily remembrance of our baptism
- Death and Resurrection
 - Dying to both Dominating Empire and Toxic Religion
- Rising to Christ's Peaceable Kingdom
- See the first thesis in Luther's 95 Theses (our entire lives are all about repentance!)



we drown. We die again to the old "turned-in-on-self" being.



we rise again, forgiven and cleansed, to new life in Christ.

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Matthew 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. <<<<<<<<

This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.

Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.

The penalty of sin remains as long as the hatred of self (that is, true inner repentance) does not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The Small Catechism

—Martin Luther

- Faith
- Action
- In
- The
- Household

4. WHAT THEN IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH A BAPTISM WITH WATER?

It signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.



Please stand if you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,

who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph-ets spoke of mer - cy, of free-dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.

God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph-et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

NICENE CREED

P: Let us profess our faith together.

C: **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

catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed, especially the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Jordan and Holy Land, and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads, especially the Chiques Creek, the Susquehanna River, and the Chesapeake Bay watersheds. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between commonwealths, political parties, diplomatic leaders, and countries—especially between Russia and Ukraine, and the people of Israel and Palestine. In times of prosperity and adversity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving losses from bloodshed, violence, war, and human atrocity, all who know depression or anxiety, and all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Additional prayers may be lifted up by the congregation and/or pastor.

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

† **THE MEAL** †

PRAYER

A: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

C: **We praise you, O God.**

P: Generations bless your faithfulness through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

C: **We bless you, O God.**

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

C: **We thank you, O God.**

P: 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 for the remembrance of me.”

P: 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 for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: We pray together.

C: 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

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament by coming forward to receive the elements. Those who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament may come forward and receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let one of the ushers know and the pastor will come to you.

For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: "Amen."

Please use this time for quiet reflection or join in singing the communion hymns until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seats.

COMMUNION HYMNS *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW 256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the





weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand if you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

† THE SENDING †

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Forest Green"

Jason W. Krug



THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

* *The flowers are sponsored by Dave & Sue Wise in loving memory of John F. & Martha Wise.*

* *The bulletins are sponsored by the Thompsons in celebration of Sarah's birthday on Wednesday, December 13!*

* *The communion elements are sponsored by Diane and Al Ramer for this Advent season of preparation.*

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Adult Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study Class (An Advent Study) – Parlor

Wired Word Class – Zone & Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>)

Monday, December 11

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 12

Bible Study – 9 a.m. (Parlor)

Finance – 6:30 p.m.

Scouts – 6:30 - 8 p.m. (Scout Room, Classrooms, and Social Room)

Wednesday, December 13 – *Poinsettia Order Deadline*

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

Community Meal – 5 p.m.

Choir – 6 p.m.

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship – 9:00 a.m. (In-Person & Livestreamed/Recorded)

Livestream/Recorded Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Christmas Trivia – 10:30 a.m. (Zone)

Hempfield H.S. Chamber Choir Holiday Concert – 3 p.m. (Sanctuary)


ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

"When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first fruit from all the ground, which you harvest from the land the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name".

Deuteronomy 26:1-2

Biblical stewardship is first.



Martin Luther defines an "idol" as anything that we trust above God. Meanwhile, Jesus warns us that we cannot simultaneously serve both God and Mammon. The reason why we encourage giving to God "first" is so that we might live to serve the Lord and not money.

God provides for us! We must share our blessings with others at Zion and with those in our communities locally and around the world.

May our practice of stewardship form us to more faithfully follow Jesus. Amen.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

In the spirit of Zion's Stewardship Initiative and being a faithful follower of Jesus, be sure to pick up your offering envelopes in your church mailbox! Please note that some envelope numbers have changed in 2024 from what they were in 2023. Make sure you use the correct box!

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you, Zion, for contributing 97 pound of food in October! The pantry is also grateful for financial contributions that help to purchase food items at the Central Penn Food Bank in Harrisburg at below super market costs. Financial contributions also allow the managers to purchase food items at local grocery stores and markets such as eggs, fresh produce, meats, dairy products as well as other pantry supplies.

In October, the pantry served a total of 1,956 people (544 children, 950 adults, 462 seniors, and 18 new families). Without the 40 volunteers who served over 600 hours, the pantry could not help all these individuals in the community!

In November, the pantry received 3,500 pounds of food from the boy scouts “scouting for food” drive and the Hempfield High School food drive collected 2,712 pounds.

Currently, Stauffers (Rohrerstown) is running a food drive for the pantry. *Even with the large amount of food the pantry received in the past months, the following items are still requested: Applesauce, Cereal, Canned Peaches, Canned Pears, Canned Mixed Fruit, Canned Mandarin Oranges, Strawberry and/or Grape Jelly.* Please note that the pantry prefers non-glass containers. Thank you!

~HOLIDAY CONCERT COMING UP~



Next Sunday!!



December 17 at 3:00 p.m.

**Featuring the Hempfield H.S.
Chamber Choir**

Contact John L. with questions or if you would like to be a sponsor for this year's concerts!

johnplandis@gmail.com

717-875-6182

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

There are a variety of Advent devotionals on the ushers' table in the narthex. In addition, there are also copies of the Advent Prayer cycle for the Middle East and the Holy Land from the ELCA and her ecumenical partners. Help yourself!

ANNUAL REPORTS: ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY TEAMS!

Now that it's December, it is also Annual Report time! All ministry teams need to email your report about what was accomplished this year and what is on your to-do list for 2024 to Anne (adminzelc@comcast.net).

JOYFUL NOISE

The Joyful Noise offering through December will go to Bethany Christian Services' Safe Families for Children program. For more information about this program, visit: <https://bethany.org/help-a-child/emergency-care/safe-families>



OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS

The December-February devotional booklets are available on the ushers' table in the narthex, on the window ledge in the back hallway, and on the kiosk across from the mailboxes. Advent devotionals are there as well.

COMFORTER MINISTRY

The Comforter Ministry is still collecting colorful clean sheets and fabric! Please place any donations in the blue bin in the narthex!

2024 FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND COMMUNION ELEMENTS SPONSORS

The sign-up sheets for all three of these sponsorship opportunities next year are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex across from the mailboxes. This is a great way to help offset the church's cost for these worship service expenses and a special way to honor, remember, and celebrate someone or an occasion! Cost is \$40 for flowers, \$40 for bulletins, and \$35 for communion elements.

FLOWER VASE DONATIONS

Do you have any altar flower vases from the church? The Altar Guild (and Nancy M. in particular!) would love it if you could return them so they can use them to deliver arrangements to others! ALSO, if you have any extra clear vases with about a 6-inch diameter that could use a new home, the Altar Guild will be more than happy to take them off your hands! They thank you in advance! Questions about size or type? Talk with Nancy (717-278-1556).

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP PICTURES

Last Sunday after worship we gathered for a time of Advent Fellowship! As you can see, it is always great to be together as we prepare for the birth of Jesus!





ANGEL TREE

There is one more week to get gifts for families and kids in need. Take a tag on the tree in the narthex and help bring light to someone's Christmas morning! Questions? Contact Kim P. (717-342-3796)



WOMEN OF ZION ADVENT BREAKFAST

Last Saturday morning women of Zion gathered at the Centerville Diner 2 (Mt. Joy) for an Advent breakfast! It was a time spent in holiday spirit enjoying fellowship, some fun holiday activities and gift exchange, and of course food. **THANK YOU** to Millie for organizing this gathering each year!





- * The Wired Word class will meet today in person and on Zoom. [Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>]
- * The class that meets in the parlor is doing an Advent study.
- * *On December 17 – Next Sunday – the classes will meet together in the Social Room for Holiday Trivia! All are welcome to come join the light-hearted fun (and yes, maybe a little bit of friendly competition)!*

HELP BEAUTIFY THE SANCTUARY ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Order forms are available on the ushers' table in the narthex.

POINSETTIA SPONSOR FORM

Cost: \$10 per poinsettia

Deadline for Orders: Wednesday, December 13th

I would like to sponsor _____ poinsettia(s). Enclosed is _____

Name of Sponsor _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Other occasion: _____

Please make checks payable to: Zion Lutheran Church



Place your sponsor form and payment in the office mail basket in the narthex on the window sill by the mailbox wall, mail (85 E. Brandt Blvd., Landisville 17538), or bring to the office.

You may take your poinsettias after Christmas Eve worship.

ADVENT BANNERS



As we begin preparations for the coming birth of Jesus, the anticipation builds as a banner in front of the Sanctuary is added each week. **The First Advent Banner** has a large, open hand of God with a heart in the middle of the hand and a swirl descending to us. The idea is that God chooses us in grace and stirs our hearts in love and power. **The 2nd Advent Banner** has a candle with a heart in its flame and a swirl rising upward symbolizing prayer and commitment to God. This banner represents our turning to God.

First Banner



Second Banner





The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



Join us at the Wittel Farm for our annual Advent/Christmas night. This year, we'll gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations!

*December 17
7-8:30 p.m.*

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the winter!

Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond.

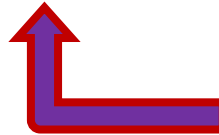
Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games.

Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat.

Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends.

Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, depending on the weather.

*January 5-7, 2024
\$170*



**NEXT
SUNDAY**



This concert features a mix of holiday songs! You will recognize some songs and some may become new favorites!

The Hershey Community Chorus
Presents

You will leave this concert in the Christmas spirit!

We hope to see you there!



**THIS
AFTERNOON!**

Sunday, December 10th - 3pm
Hershey Free Church
330 Hilltop Road,
Hummelstown

Ticket Prices

Adults \$15

Students \$5

Children (5 and under) FREE

Pre-order Options

* info@hersheycommunitychorus.org

* Contact John or Joanne Marrs
(717-818-5509)

Tickets are also available at the door.





***ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
AT A GLANCE***

Today at 9 a.m.

Worship (Advent 2)

Wed. 12/13

Poinsettia Order Deadline

Sun., 12/17 at 9 a.m.

Worship (Advent 3)

Sun., 12/17 at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Trivia (Zone)

Sun., 12/17 at 3:00 p.m.

Hempfield Chamber Concert

Sun., 12/24 at 9 a.m.

Worship (Advent 4)

Sun., 12/24: Christmas Eve

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Dick Olson	Cindy Blough	Bob Shirk	Tom Grzybowski
Jess Barcaro	Sam King	Bill Grove	Connie Alsedek
Joe Adams	Mary Zimmerman	Marvin Ruch	Kate Donnan
Judie Ingersoll	Joan Mays	Holly Hoover	Barb Williams
Kay Crawford	Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)		Dolly Overly

Ed Illick (Husband of Pastor Pam Illick)
Brook Ross (Friend of Barb Williams)
Walter Thalgott (Brother of Thelma Pearson)
William Hartman (Father of Deb Grube)
Jeff Long (Nephew of Rick & Deb Long)
Mike LaFata (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)
Jack Taylor (4-year-old son of the niece of Deb Grube)
Harmony & Family (Friends of Kim & Jim Paternoster)

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

Thelma Pearson Lucy Davis Deb McCartney George Potts
Ruth Burkett (Mother of Deb Long) Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)
Randy Miller and his family on the death of his father.
Ed & Dotty Sites (Parents of Cathy Benedict)
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)
Peggy & Rick Dolly (Relatives of Barb Williams)

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Evan Benedict Christopher Wright Chris Andrew Thom Whitesel
Ryan Stitzel Doug Kautter Justin Gorlaski
Tyler Duke (Great Grandson of Jan Reeves)
Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)
David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)

IN CELEBRATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

10th – Philip Smeltz
11th – Bill Flood
13th – Sarah Chapman, Nina Laliberte
14th – Christian Benedict
15th – Nathan Bear, Kaylyn Langseth, Ted Symonds

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown
Music Director	John Landis
Parish Administrator	Anne Rankin
Worship Technology Assistant	David Albin
Lay Ministry Assistant	Diane Gerlach
Council President	Kim Paternoster
Council Vice President	Denise Haun
Sextons	Brian Bourassa (a.m.) Tom Miller (p.m.)

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link	http://bit.ly/Zion_Live
Joint Class	Sunday, December 17 @ 10:30 a.m. (Zone)
Advent Study Class (Parlor)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (Except 12/ 17 & 31)
Wired Word Class (Zone & Zoom)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (Except 12/17 & 31) https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266
Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays @ 9:00 a.m.
Church Office	717-898-2911
Pastor	717-332-4216
Parish Administrator	717-945-4585
Council President	717-342-3796
Office Email	adminzelc@comcast.net
Pastor Email	zion1517pastor@gmail.com
Council President Email	krpkc@aol.com
Music Director Email	zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com
Website	www.zionhempfield.net
Facebook	Zion Lutheran Hempfield
Church Address	85 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538
Office Address	75 E. Brandt Blvd. Landisville, PA 17538

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* *The Stewardship slide is adapted from "A Litany Prayer for Aleppo" by Michael K. Marsh by Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown.*