

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A Service of Word & Sacrament

December 19, 2021



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 with in-person or online this morning! 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 Pastor Sell.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ZION

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

ONLINE: Worship services are live-streamed on the church YouTube channel: [*http://bit.ly/Zion_Live*](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.

FOR THOSE WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON

- ❖ Mask wearing is recommended for all who attend or participate in any indoor gathering, including worship, at the church. This recommendation is for those who are vaccinated as well as for those who are not. If you are not vaccinated, we are asking you to please wear a mask to keep your fellow congregants as safe as possible. Church should be a loving, caring environment, and we would like to keep it that way.
- ❖ Communion is distributed in continuous fashion or you may take one of the communion kits at the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer to commune at your seat.
- ❖ Restrooms are available by the front entrance of the church in the Narthex and 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.
- ❖ Ushers are located near the front and back of the worship area to direct people to seating and to the offering plates.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

† THE GATHERING †

INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Cranham"

Please stand if you are able.

OPENING HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

1. In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

2. Heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.



3. What can I give him,
 poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man
 I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—
 give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

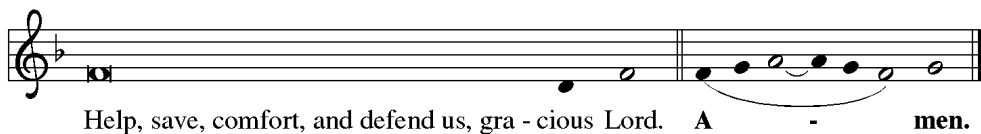
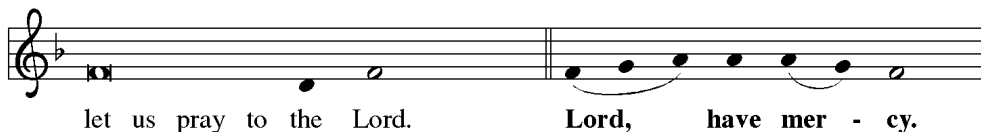
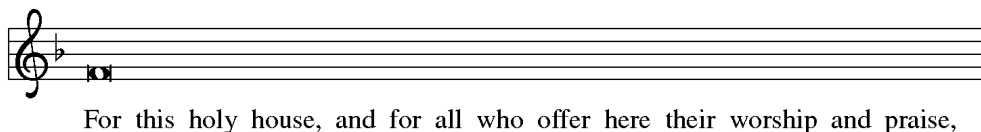
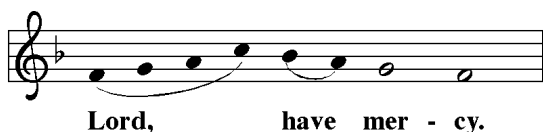
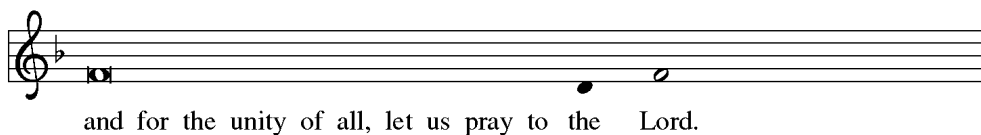
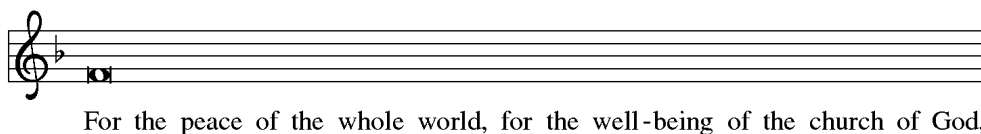
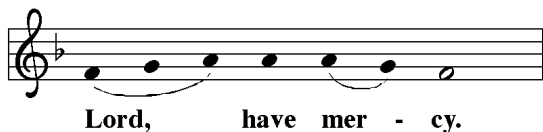
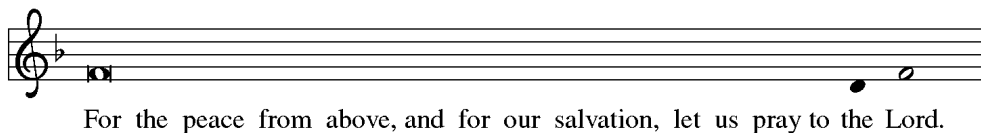
C: **Amen.**

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.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

R: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

R: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it, the Candle of Peace, and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope, our peace, and our joy.

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple to tell him that, in their old age, God would give Zechariah and Elizabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

Light the Fourth Candle, the Candle of Love.

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

R: Let us pray:

All: **Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen**

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† THE WORD †

Matthew 1:18-24

“Darkness Holds God”

A: ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46b-55

Please read responsively

A: ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: ⁴⁷**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹**for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³**he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵**according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

Hebrews 10:5-10

A: ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*The King Shall Come***ELW 260**

5. The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Luke 1:39-56

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Rev. Melody Sell

INSTALLATION/REAFFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

P: The following people have been elected by Zion to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Adele King

Amy Thompson

David Dumeyer

Diane Ramer

Denise Haun

Kim Paternoster

Randy Miller

Cathy Benedict

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council Members: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Congregation: Please stand if you are able.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

P: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C: Amen.

SERMON HYMN

Joyful Is the Dark

1 Joy-ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid-den God,
 2 Joy-ful is the dark Spir - it of the deep,
 3 Joy-ful is the dark, shad-owed sta-ble floor;
 4 Joy-ful is the dark cool-ness of the tomb,
 5 Joy-ful is the dark depth of love di - vine,



5

roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,

8

maj - es - ty in darkness, en - er - gy of love,
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:
 ho - ly, haunting beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.

12

Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.
 swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

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: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Additional petitions may be inserted.

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

† THE MEAL †

OFFERING HYMN

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.



You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.,

OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface

P: It is indeed right and our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God for in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have given us a new revelation of your glory; that seeing you in the person of your Son, we may be drawn to love those things which are not seen. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn with these words:

C:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

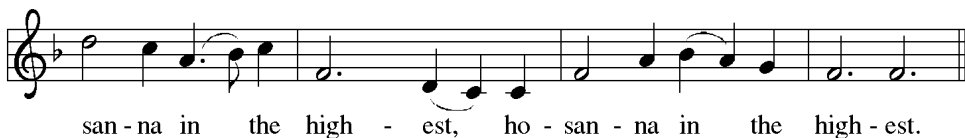


heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.*

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.*

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: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

PARTAKING IN THE BREAD AND CUP OF SALVATION

All baptized Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. You may commune in your pew with one of the individually packaged kits or you may commune by coming forward to receive the elements in continuous fashion. 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 COMMUNING WITH THE KITS

Open the wafer packet.

P: The body of Christ given for you.

C: **Amen.**

Open the cup.

P: The blood of Christ shed for you.

C: **Amen.**

Please place communion cups & wrappers in the trash can as you exit the Sanctuary.

FOR THOSE COMMUNING BY COMING FORWARD

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 given 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."

AFTER COMMUNING

Please use this time for quiet reflection until all worshippers have communed and have returned to their seat.

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: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

† THE SENDING †

BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C: **Amen.**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

1. Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.
2. With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.
3. My child, as prophet of the Lord
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

BEING RECOGNIZED, ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.

The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.



IMAGES IN THE READINGS

The **pregnant woman** can be a symbol of the life that comes from God. In the Bible, many women, from Eve in Genesis 4:1 on, conceive and bear children with the help of God. Here both the virgin Mary and the post-menopausal Elizabeth are pregnant. When we acclaim God as creator, we attest that God is continually creating life on this earth.

What has been termed “the Visitation” is observed also on May 31. Recently many women have found inspiration in this story of **two women**, each in some way outside the mainstream, supporting one another.

The **arm of the LORD** is a repeated image in the Old Testament. Biblical imagery describes God’s activities as if God had a human-like body, although with scarce reference to male or female generative organs. By the fifth century, theologians, quite aware of polytheisms in which the deities have bodies, opposed any literal belief in God as a superhuman. Singing Mary’s Magnificat in Advent, we think of the infant’s arms as the almighty power of God.

Bethlehem means house of bread. We come each week to the table, welcomed to Christ’s house of bread.



THIS WEEK AT ZION & WITHIN THE WIDER CHURCH

Sunday, December 19 -- *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

** The altar flowers are sponsored by Brenda Stover in celebration of her birthday tomorrow!*

** The bulletins are sponsored anonymously in celebration of the season.*

** The communion elements are sponsored by Bob Wildasin in anticipation of the birth of the Christ Child.*

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Livestream/Recorded Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Adult Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. (Parlor)

Wired Word Sunday School – 10:15 a.m. (Social Room)

Hempfield High School Ensemble Holiday Concert – 3:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Christmas in a Barn – 7:00-8:30 p.m. (The Wittel Farm)

Monday, December 20

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesday, December 21

Bible Study – 9 - 10:30 a.m. (Parlor)

Scouts – 6:30 p.m. (Classrooms)

Wednesday, December 22

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, December 23

Community Meal – 5:15 p.m. [Last one until 1/13]

Choir – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 24 – *Christmas Eve*

In-Person Christmas Eve Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Livestream/Recorded Worship – 7:00 p.m.

Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

Saturday, December 25 – *Merry Christmas!*

Sunday, December 26

In-Person Worship – 9:00 a.m. (Service of Lessons and Carols)

Livestream/Recorded Worship – 9:00 a.m.

Link: http://bit.ly/Zion_Live

No Sunday School Classes (Classes will resume on 1/9)

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

JOYFUL NOISE

The collection through this month will go to Night to Shine. Night to Shine is an annual prom experience event for those with special needs. This event is one that these folks look forward to all year; it is one that gives them the chance to feel like other kids who get to experience the prom or some other special dance night.

THE COFFEE TABLE IS BACK!

Cookies, coffee, and hot water for tea are available on Sunday mornings again in the Narthex. Beverages can be found in the carafes. Decaffeinated coffee will be available in the Zone using Keurig single cup pods. Anyone interested in helping with the coffee set-up should contact Sue Wise (swoogle53@aol.com).



MINISTRY TEAMS

It's that time of year again...Please email your year-end ministry team report to Anne (adminzelc@comcast.net) this week.

CLOCK IN THE PARLOR

If you are interested in purchasing the grandfather clock that is currently in the Parlor, please contact Dave Dumeyer. We want to give church members the first opportunity to buy it. It will be sold based on sealed bids. If no one expresses interest by the end of the year, it will be advertised to the general public.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Classes are typically held every Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m.

➤ IN THE SOCIAL ROOM

The class explores current events and other relevant topics within a biblical and Christian framework. [Note: Beginning January 9, this class will meet in the Zone.]

➤ IN THE PARLOR

Today, this class will conclude the series of Box Office Bible Studies that feature an Advent presentation based on scenes from the Frank Capra classic starring Jimmy Stewart, "It's a Wonderful Life."

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA FOR ALL

The Wired Word Sunday School class is having a Christmas trivia contest this morning for anyone who would care to join in the game! There will be team play and team prizes for the winning team! Please come and join the fun and maybe learn some new facts about Christmas.

FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

There is nothing to report from the Call Committee as they are just waiting to receive a candidate from the Synod.

INSTALLATION/REAFFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

This morning we are installing and reaffirming the Council Members and Officers for 2022. Please congratulate and express your appreciation for those who serve with such commitment and dedication to Zion on behalf of all members.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

In November, 2021...a total of 505 persons were served which included 139 children, 269 adults, and 97 seniors. During this pandemic time, we continue to serve clients with a pre-packed box of food items (staples, fresh produce, meat, eggs, cheese, and bread/pastry items) placed directly in their car trunk. Clients do not enter the building for their food items. Clients may visit the pantry once a week, either Monday or Wednesday; an average of 75-100 families currently visit the pantry each week. The pantry clients are very appreciative for the food assistance they receive to feed their families as they struggle to make ends meet!

2022 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 cost for the church for these worship service expenses and a special way to honor, remember, and celebrate someone or an occasion!



COMMUNION CARDS

Please be sure to fill out a communion card after you commune today in worship. If you aren't communing today but plan to before the end of the year, there will be cards available on Christmas Eve and on December 26.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM BRENDA ALIMO

I am so happy to take this special time to communicate to you! I hope the grace of the Lord is keeping you safe and covering you with the precious blood of the Lord. Back to me – I am fine and healthy. I am helping my home people to weed cassava, maize, millet, and sweet potatoes. The weather currently is hot with little rainfall. The rains are only once in a while but we still hope to get a good harvest.

Thank you so much for the nice birthday card you sent to me. I love it so much. Thank you for thinking about me. I feel so much love and I can't stop smiling and reading it! And thank you so much for the education gift you sent me of \$534 which is what paid my school fees for the whole year.

Once again I want to thank you so much for the special love you have shown me. Without you I would be a wasted girl in the village, but with your support, I am a proud girl attending school. Through your support, my family standard of living has changed. There is nothing I can pay you back with but the best gift I can give you is prayer and protection that comes from God. Send greetings to all your church members. Tell them I love them all!

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes have been distributed into mailboxes! If you did not receive an envelope box, please contact Phil Houseal (phouseal@comcast.net).

Some important points to note:

- Some members' envelope numbers have changed for 2022. So please do not use a 2022 envelope for a 2021 offering. If you do, you risk not being credited for your contribution. Also, when we cross into the new year, please discard all unused 2021 envelopes so you don't accidentally use them in the future.
- All offerings that should be recorded in 2021 must be received at the church office by Friday, Dec. 31. If an offering is received after that date, it will be recorded in 2022.
- If you know a member who is unable to pick up their envelope box, please feel free to deliver it to them. That will help to defray the cost of mailing it to them.

ZION MUSIK CONCERT SERIES

What a joy it was to have the Hershey Handbell Ensemble at Zion last Sunday afternoon! The Sanctuary was full of beautiful music and as you can see from the picture, it was a great turnout! We hope you will come out this afternoon to enjoy the Hempfield High School Chamber Singers' performance of their holiday concert!



2022 Zion Musik Concert Series

*To help sustain the Zion Musik Concert Series at Zion Lutheran Church, consider being a sponsor.
Please complete this form and place in the offering plate or mail to:*

Zion Lutheran Church
Attn: Concert Series
85 East Brandt Blvd.
Landisville, PA 17538

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Amount I wish to donate: _____
Please note the sponsorship levels from the categories below:

Diamond Sponsor \$400+
Platinum Sponsor \$300 - \$399
Gold Sponsor \$200 - \$299
Silver Sponsor \$100 - \$199
Bronze Sponsor \$50 - \$99
Copper Sponsor \$1 - \$49

In memory/honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to: _____

Zion Lutheran Church

[Please indicate "Zion Musik" in the memo line on your check.]

Visit www.zionhempfield.net for more information about the Zion Musik Concert Series and upcoming concerts!

Concerts Scheduled in 2022

May 22 at 3:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Flute Choir

October 9 at 3:00 p.m.
Rizzetta's Tones

Please consider being a Concert Series Sponsor to help sustain this ministry of the church for us and for the community!

Sponsor forms are available on the ushers' table and on the window ledge in the back hallway.

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT ZION

Holiday Concert at Zion
Sunday, December 19
3:00 p.m.



...

*Featuring the Hempfield High School
Chamber Singers*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN A BARN

December 19

7:00-8:30 p.m.

At The Wittel Farm

*Join us at the farm for our 4th annual
Advent/Christmas night. Come gather around
the outdoor fire and have cookies and
cocoa in the barn.*

Lights and decorations!



CHRISTMAS EVE @ ZION

In-person & on-line
7:00 p.m.

**Music; Candle Lighting;
Scripture; Communion**

<http://bit.ly/Zion-Live>



WINTER EVENTS AT KIRCHENWALD & NAWAKWA

Winter Fun Day

at Kirchenwald

Sunday, January 16
Sunday, February 20
1:00pm - 6:00pm

Bring your family or youth group and enjoy an afternoon on Kirchenwald's award-winning toboggan run, ice-skating on the lake, or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge.

Free-will offering accepted.

RSVP to the Camping Office at
717-677-8211.



The Lutheran Camping
Corporation of Central PA
LutheranCamping.org



Chicken & Waffles

at Nawakwa

Sunday, January 16, 2022
12:00pm - 2:00ish

Spend a Sunday at camp with a delicious home-made chicken and waffles dinner. Bring your sleds if there's snow!

Free-will offering accepted.

RSVP to the Camping Office at
717-677-8211 by January 12.



The Lutheran Camping
Corporation of Central PA
LutheranCamping.org



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
REGISTER FOR THE
WINTER FUN DAY, VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.LUTHERANCAMPIN
G.ORG/EVENT/WINTER-FUN-DAY-
FEB-2022/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/winter-fun-day-feb-2022/)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
REGISTER FOR THE
CHICKEN & WAFFLES DINNER,
VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.LUTHERANCAMPIN
G.ORG/EVENT/CHICKEN-WAFFLES-
2022/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/chicken-waffles-2022/)**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SPONSORS

Jess & Matt Barcaro

In honor of Grant

Ed & Cindy Blough

In memory of Henry and June Duke

In memory of Charlie Blough

Dave & Donna Dumeyer

In honor of our daughters and their families

In memory of our parents

Diane Gerlach

In memory of Bruce Gerlach

Robin Ginther

In memory of my parents

Gloria Grube

In honor of my family

James Grube

John & Kathy Hay

In honor of our children and grandchildren

Scott & Mary Hetrick

In honor of Maria and Katie

Pat & John Hinkle

In memory of our fathers: Elwood J. King and John F. Hinkle, Sr.

The Kautter Family

In memory of Patricia Kautter

Adele & Sam King

In honor of our grandchildren: Alex, Emme, and Leia

In honor of our children: Alison, Justin, and Jessica

In memory of our departed family: mothers, fathers, grandparents, and Betty

In memory of our departed friends: Jan, Sharon, Mary, and Rick

Nina Laliberte

In memory of Aunt Helen

Rick & Deb Long

In honor of our mothers: Ruth Burkett and Mary Long

In honor of our children and their spouses

In memory of our fathers: Francis Deller and Merrill Long

In memory of Rick's sister, Betsy

In honor of the birth of our Lord Jesus



Randy Miller

In memory of Mary Keiper and Donald Oeschager

In honor of my family

Harry & Janet Musselman

In memory of our parents, George & Lena Miller

In memory of Howard & Leone Musselman

In memory of Rebecca Miller and Pat Lorah

Jan Reeves

In memory of Arlie

Dawn Reinhart and Sons: Jeffrey, Kevin, and Mark

In memory of our beloved Chis

Sue & Doug Rhoads

In honor of our children, grandchildren, and Gigi

Marvin & Wenda Ruch

In memory of our parents

Cathy & Bob Shirk

In memory of Dolores Derr and Eugene & Phylis Shirk

Jo Stone

In memory of all my loved family who are no longer with us.

Brenda Stover

In memory of Lillian Stover

Bob & Judy Traup

In honor of our children, grandchildren, and Zion friends

In memory of our parents: Mamie, Mary Ann and Chuck Trexel

Bob & Barb Wildasin

In memory of Bob, Helen, and Cork & George Doll

In memory of Cleo, Lillian, & Harry Wildasin

Kurt Wildasin

In memory of Sarah Wildasin

Dave & Sue Wise

In memory of John and Martha Wise, Daves's parents

In honor of John and Loma Slike, Sue's parents

In honor of Grant Matthew Barcaro, grandson



PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Joanne Grim	Dolly Overly	Doug Grow
Marvin Ruch	Kate Donnan	Barbara Williams
Don Heartter	Joe Adams	Judie Ingersoll
Bill Grove	Kay Crawford	Holly Hoover
Sam King	Mary Zimmerman	
Janet & Harry Musselman	Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)	
Bobbi (Friend of a member)		
William Hartman (Father of Deb Grube)		
Skipper Mann (Sister of Dolly Overly)		
Meghan Frey (Friend of the congregation)		
Ashley LaFata & Mike Walker (Bill & Julia Grove's Granddaughter & Husband)		
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)		
Mike LaFata (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)		

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

Thelma Pearson	Lucy Davis	Betty Stoner
Arlene Miller	Deb McCartney	Bette Geibel
Richard & Marilyn Heim	George Potts	
Jess, Matt, & Grant Barcaro	Ed & Dotty Sites (Parents of Cathy Benedict)	
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)		
Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)		
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)		

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)	
Jared Shiner (Grandson of Diane Gerlach)		
Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)		
David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)		

IN CELEBRATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

20th – Brenda Stover, Cameron Reed
21st – Todd Reed
23rd – Linda Bear, Don Wierschke

24th – Sue Wise, Holly Hoover
25th – Dave Wauls, Mary Gerlach

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Music Director
Parish Administrator
Worship Technology Assistant
Lay Ministry Assistant
Council President
Council Vice President
Sextons

Today's Assisting Minister
Advent Readers & Wreath Lighters

Members of the Congregation
Rev. Melody Sell
John Landis
Anne Rankin
David Albin
Diane Gerlach
Adele King
David Wise
Brian Bourassa (a.m.)
Tom Miller (p.m.)
Darrell Gerke
Rick & Deb Long

WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION

In-Person Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship	7:00 p.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link for all services	http://bit.ly/Zion_Live
Adult Sunday School Classes (Parlor & Social Room)	Sundays @ 10:15 a.m.
Church Office	717-898-2911
Pastor	570-916-8835
Parish Administrator	717-945-4585
Council President	610-247-1497
Office Email	adminzelc@comcast.net
Pastor Email	prmsell2@ptd.net
Council President Email	adelel3@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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