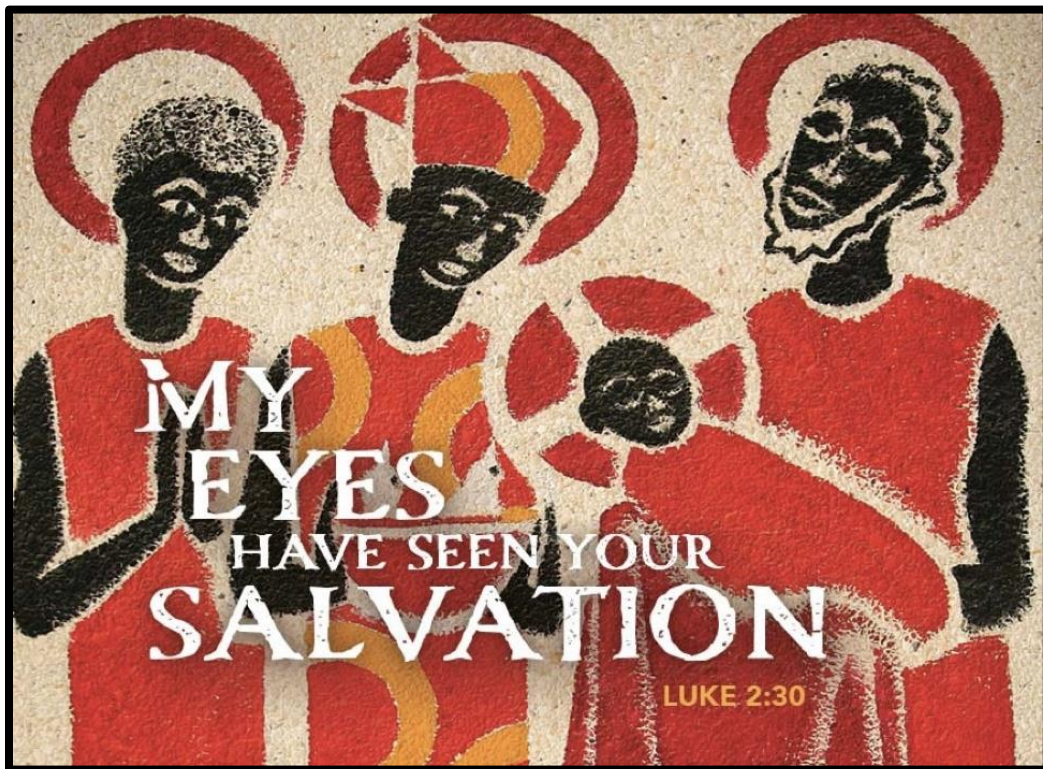


# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

*A Service of Word & Sacrament*

*December 31, 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](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.

# First Sunday of Christmas

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

## † THE GATHERING †

### INTRODUCTION

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

### WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & GOD-SIGHTINGS

### PRELUDE

*Please stand if you are able.*

### CHRISTMAS HYMN      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ELW 288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first three lines corresponding to the first system of music and the last three lines corresponding to the second system. The music is arranged in a three-part setting, with the Soprano part on the top staff, the Alto part in the middle, and the Tenor/Bass part on the bottom staff. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with the first three lines corresponding to the first system of music and the last three lines corresponding to the second system.



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P:** God of life,

**C:** **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have**

**mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

- P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.
- 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **† THE WORD †**

### **ISAIAH 61:10-62:3**

*Clothed in garments of salvation.*


- A: <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and

you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



*Isaiah*

*61:10--62:3*

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- How will we wear the “garments of salvation” in 2024?
- If Christ is seeking to be embodied in the world, how will he do that through us in the coming year?

# CHRISTMAS HYMN

## *Once in Royal David's City*

ELW 269 (vs. 3 & 4)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho-ly.  
and he leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath-er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



## PSALM 148

*Please read responsively.*

A: <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: <sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

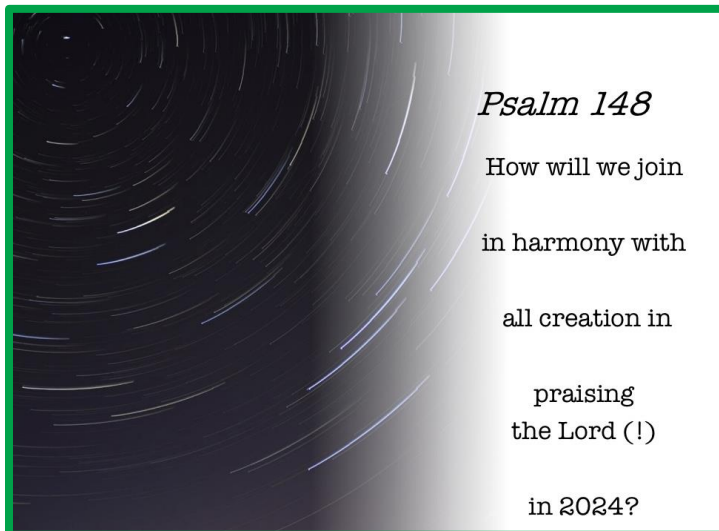
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**





# CHRISTMAS HYMN

## The First Noel

ELW 300 (vs. 1&2)

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near in to the . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and so it con -  
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*

night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## **GALATIANS 4:4-7**

*Children and heirs of God.*

A: <sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Galatians 4:4-7

How will we use  
our freedom as

Children of God

for the sake of  
others in 2024?



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

*Please stand if you are able.*

**Luke 2:22-40**

*The presentation of the child.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

P: <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

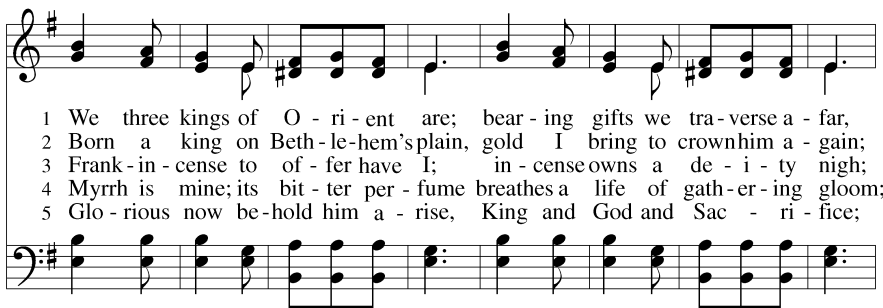
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



# CHRISTMAS HYMN

## *We Three Kings*

(verses 1, 2, and 5)

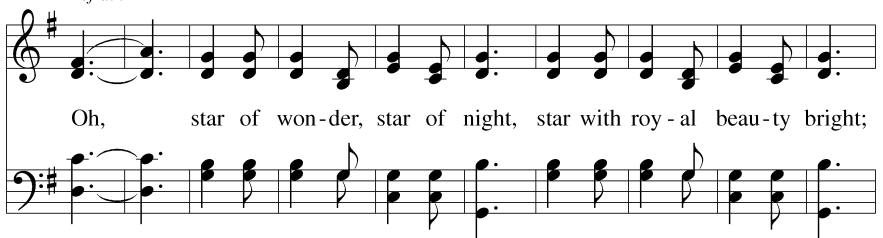


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;  
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

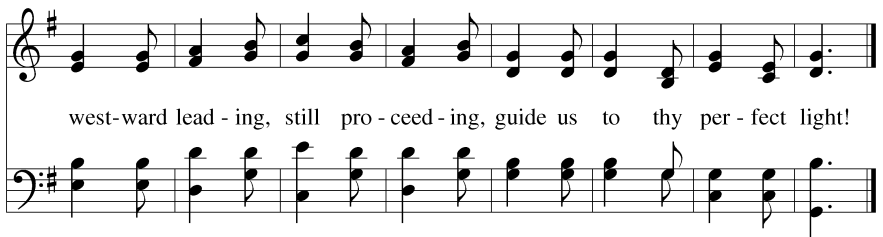


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

### *Refrain*



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

*Please be seated.*

## MESSAGE

**Pastor Timothy Seitz-Brown**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## CHRISTMAS HYMN

### ***Bring We the Frankincense***

1. Bring we the frankincense of our love  
To the feet of the holy Child,  
Ever remembering God's great gift  
Of a love that is undefiled.

### *Refrain*

Holy the Infant and holy the mother  
And holy and precious the gifts that we bring;  
Praise to the Father and praise to the Spirit  
And praise to Christ Jesus our King.

2. Bring we the myrrh of humility  
To the throne of the Son of God,  
Ever recalling the purity  
Of His life when the earth He trod. *Refrain*

3. Ever secure in His changelessness,  
Though the kingdoms of earth may fall,  
Bring we the gold of our faithfulness  
To the King who is Lord of all. *Refrain*

## 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:** Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

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

P: Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.  
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 of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
C: **Amen.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: God of peace and light, you have prepared a table before us in the presence of all peoples, and you have made it a gift of revelation and glory.  
  
Your servant Anna waited for you with fasting and prayer night and day. Visit your people that the secrets of our hearts may be laid bare and the secret of your heart be revealed; and make your people holy as you are holy.

Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "*Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*"

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "*Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.*"

Great is the mystery of faith.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Consoling God, as Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice in your temple, bring comfort to all who feel today like they are being sacrificed by the cruel, the merciless, or the fanatical. As Simeon foresaw that your Son would be a sign that would be opposed, bless any who face hostility, anger, and violence.

As the holy family realized that a sword would pierce their own soul, speak tenderly to those whose soul knows despair, loss, or betrayal. Make your church strong, fill your children with wisdom, and set your favor upon all who turn to you; until that day when heaven and earth become a temple of your praise and your resurrection engulfs all you have made, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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:** Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

*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.*

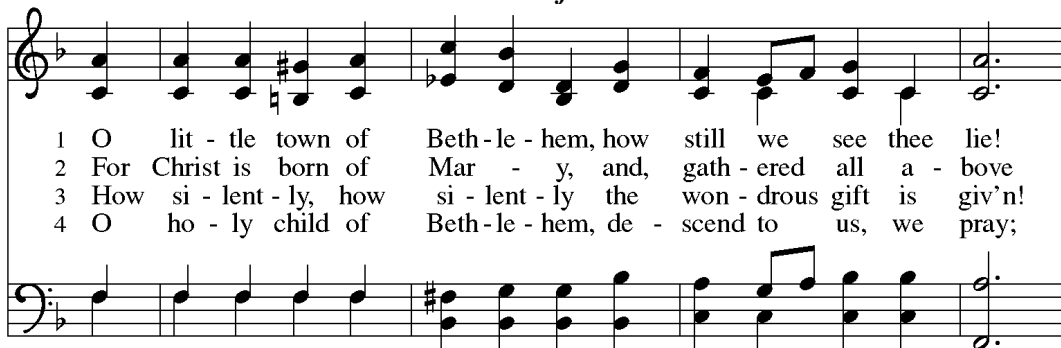
*For those not able to have red wine, there is grape juice in the outer circle of every tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers will say: "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you," to which you may respond: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

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

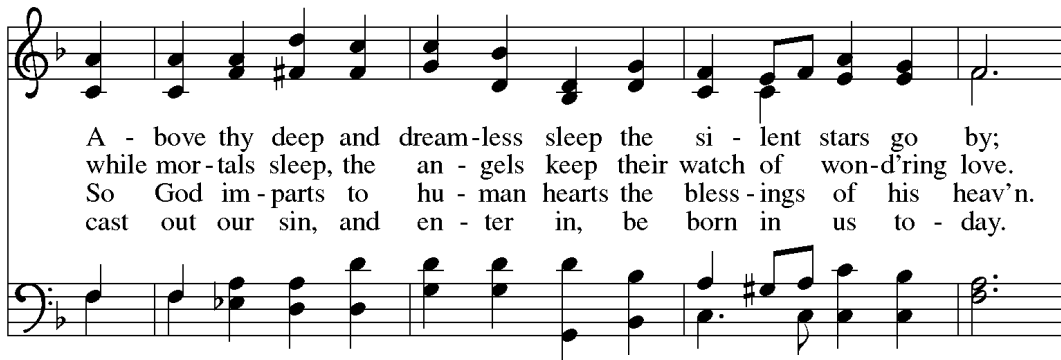
### COMMUNION SONGS

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW 279

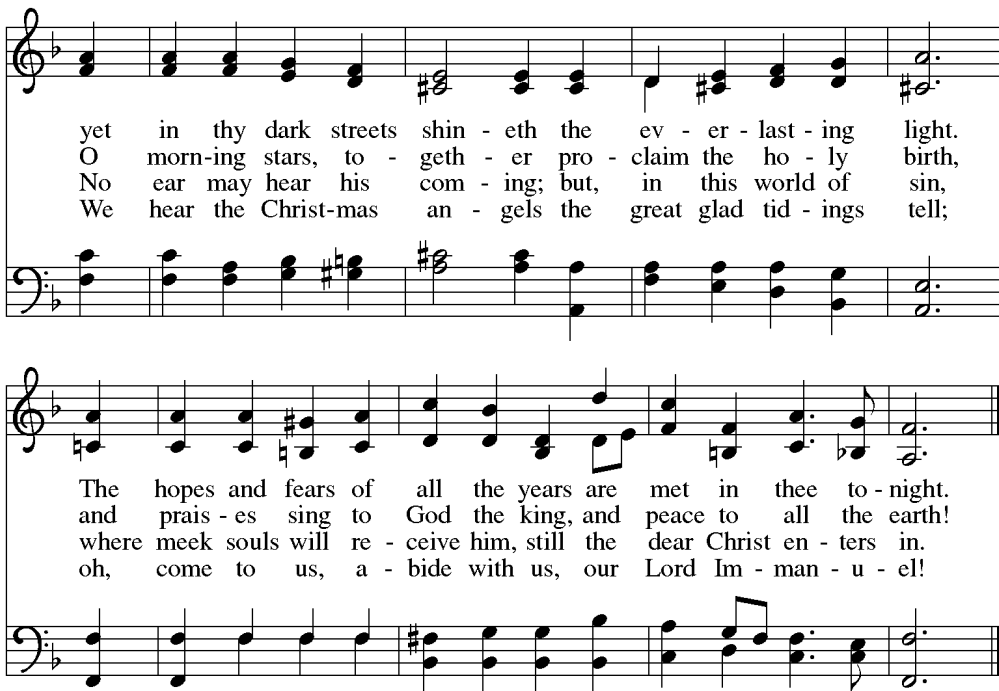


1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.





yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

### *Lo, How a Rose*

**ELW 272**

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,  
It came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

*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: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## † THE SENDING †

### BLESSING

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

#### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW 289

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

#### *Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

### DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this goodness!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

## **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

### **Sunday, December 31**

*\* The flowers are given in celebration of a spirit-filled 2023 as we look ahead to a new year full of Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love.*

*\* The communion elements are sponsored by Diane and Al Ramer to God's glory!*

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

Livestream/Recorded Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

No Sunday School

### **Monday, January 1 – *Happy New Year!***

Food Pantry Closed

Office Closed

### **Tuesday, January 2**

Bible Study – 9 a.m. (Parlor)

No Scouts

### **Wednesday, January 3**

Food Pantry – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### **Thursday, January 4**

Choir – 6 p.m.

### **Friday, January 5**

### **Saturday, January 6 – *Epiphany***

### **Sunday, January 7 – *Baptism of Our Lord***

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

Livestream/Recorded Link: [http://bit.ly/Zion\\_Live](http://bit.ly/Zion_Live)

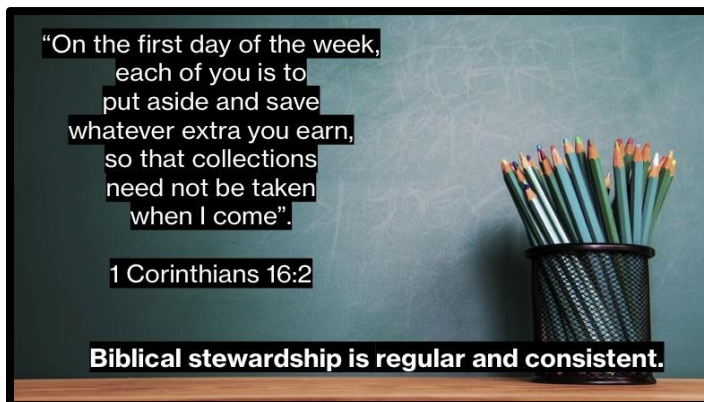
Adult Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study Class – Parlor

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



***As faithful stewards of God's grace, each of us ought to use whatever gifts we have to serve others.***

***We are all called to take what we have received and to share it with the world—both here at Zion and in the community.***

### 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

In the spirit of Zion's Stewardship Initiative and being generous followers 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 number!*

### ANNUAL REPORTS: ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY TEAMS!

All ministry teams need to email your report about what was accomplished in 2023 and what is on the to-do list in 2024 to Anne (adminzelc@comcast.net).

### 2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please review your listing in the directory on the ushers' table in the narthex. Note any changes by Monday, January 15 so your information can be updated in the church office. A 2024 directory will be printed by the end of January.

### JOYFUL NOISE

Today is the last day to give to the Joyful Noise offering 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>.

In January, this outreach offering will go to Day of Smiles! This non-profit collects money for different local organizations to help bring smiles to those in need throughout the year.

## **CHRISTMAS UNDECORATING**

Come help undecorate the church from the Christmas season this coming Saturday, January 6, beginning at 8 a.m. The more hands, the quicker and easier it will be!

## **OUR DAILY BREAD DEVOTIONALS**

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.

## **COMFORTER MINISTRY**

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

## **FLOWER, BULLETIN, AND COMMUNION ELEMENTS SPONSORS**

The sign-up sheets for all three of these sponsorship opportunities in 2024 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.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

There is no Sunday School today. Classes will resume next Sunday, January 7.

\* The Wired Word: In the Zone and on Zoom  
[Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266>]

\* The class that meets in the parlor will begin a new study.



### **Voting Members**

Rev. Tim Seitz-Brown -- *Pastor*  
Kim Paternoster -- *President*  
Denise Haun  
Amy Thompson  
Nevin Lontz

Diane Ramer  
Dave Wauls  
Cathy Benedict  
Dave Dumeyer

### **Non-Voting Members**

Brenda Stover – *Secretary*  
Randy Miller – *Financial Secretary*  
Phil Houseal – *Assistant Financial Secretary*

John Hay – *Treasurer*  
Lisa Nelson – *Assistant Treasurer*





**The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



➤ **Chicken & Waffles: January 14, 12 Noon-2 p.m.  
@ Nawakwa; RSVP by 1/10**

*Spend a Sunday at camp with a delicious home-made  
chicken and waffles dinner.*

*And bring your sleds (if there's snow)!*



➤ **Winter Fun Day: January 14 and  
February 18, 1-5 p.m. @ Kirchenwald**

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



➤ **Lenten Day Apart: February 24, 9 a.m.- 3  
p.m. @ The Wittel Farm; RSVP by 2/16;  
\$15 (includes program cost and meals)**

*Begin your Lenten journey to Easter by joining  
us for a day apart.*

# ***PRAYER LIST***

## ***FOR HEALING***

Dave Wauls  
Dick Olson  
Cindy Blough  
Bob Shirk  
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  
Tom Grzybowski  
Dolly Overly  
John Hay  
Renee Willamon (Friend of Pat Landis)  
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)  
Ed Illick (Husband of Pastor Pam Illick)  
Brook Ross (Friend of Barb Williams)  
William Hartman (Father of Deb Grube)  
Walter Thalgott (Brother of Thelma Pearson)  
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)  
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!**

1<sup>st</sup> – Collin Donnan, Darlene Smeltz  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Sarah Laliberte, Eric Searle  
5<sup>th</sup> – Pamela Gunzenhauser  
6<sup>th</sup> – Hannah Kearon, Randy Miller, Jordan Provanzo, Amber Swade  
7<sup>th</sup> – Dianne Coons

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

5<sup>th</sup> – Nathan & Danielle Myers

## **MINISTRY LEADERS**

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

Members of the Congregation  
Rev. Timothy Seitz-Brown  
John Landis  
Anne Rankin  
David Albin  
Diane Gerlach  
Kim Paternoster  
Denise Haun  
Brian Bourassa (a.m.)  
Tom Miller (p.m.)

## **WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL, & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Worship	Sundays @ 9:00 a.m.
Livestream & Recorded Link	<a href="http://bit.ly/Zion_Live">http://bit.ly/Zion_Live</a>
Bible Study Class (Parlor)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. (No class today)
Wired Word Class (Zone & Zoom)	Sundays @ 10:30 a.m. <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2283229266</a> (No class today)
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	<a href="mailto:adminzelc@comcast.net">adminzelc@comcast.net</a>
Pastor Email	<a href="mailto:zion1517pastor@gmail.com">zion1517pastor@gmail.com</a>
Council President Email	<a href="mailto:krpkc@aol.com">krpkc@aol.com</a>
Music Director Email	<a href="mailto:zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com">zionlandisvillemusic@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.zionhempfield.net">www.zionhempfield.net</a>
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.*