

Third Sunday of Advent

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

This is the Third Sunday in the Advent season. In Advent the Word of God bids us prepare for the coming of Christ. The readings for Advent have this urgency to them: Since he is surely coming again in judgment, we desperately need for him to come to us first in grace. For without that coming in grace we will perish at his coming in judgment. The blue paraments are used to signify preparation for the coming of the Savior. We're preparing to celebrate when he came 2000 years ago that first Christmas, but we also are preparing for his coming at the end of this world when he comes back in the clouds of the sky. Blue is the color of the sky and of hope, the hope that we have in that glorious day.

WORSHIP FOCUS: Like John the Baptist, we rejoice when we share the good news of God's saving love in Christ with others.

The Hymn of the Day: Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You

The Hymn of the Day is a key element in the service. The practice of having a chief hymn for the day in the service has roots deep in historical, liturgical Lutheran worship tradition. Its purpose is to respond closely to the theme of the day.

Today's hymn is a reflection on the coming of Christ and the hope that he brings. It is a prayer for the Lord to come and meet us, to bring us peace and salvation. The hymn is a reminder that Christ is the Savior of the world and that we should prepare ourselves for his coming.

Liturgy: Service of the Word & Sacrament

CW pg. 26

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual handheld units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

OPENING HYMN: CW 586

MORNING



Text: St. Ambrose, 340–97, abr., adapt.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, Rev. ed., London, 1904, alt. Tune: O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT (LM) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, alt.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

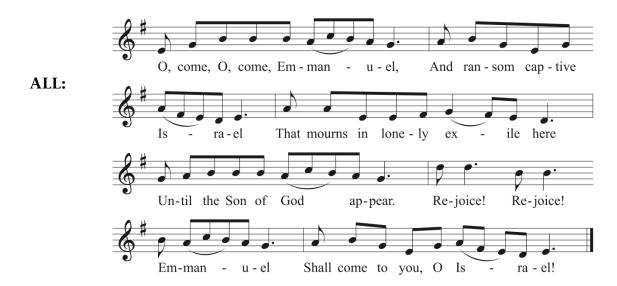
P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

- P: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.
- C: But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.
- P: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

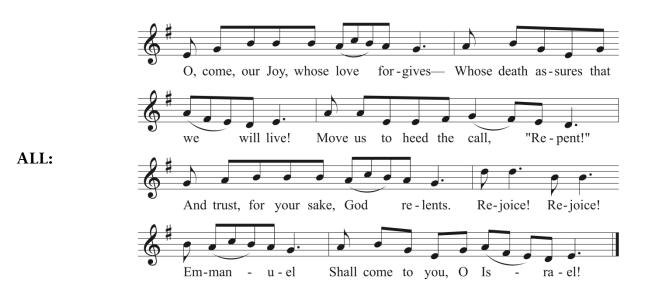
Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23



- P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the joy candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.
- C: And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious *joy*, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

Galatians 4:4,5; 1 Peter 1:8,9

Advent Candle is lighted



- P: In the joy of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
- C: God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

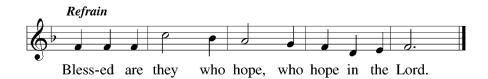
THE WORD

First Lesson Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

61 The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD. My soul will celebrate because of my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. With a robe of righteousness he covered me, like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest, and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry. ¹¹For as the earth produces its growth, and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up, so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up in the presence of all the nations. (EHV)

Psalm 71 *CW pg. 92*



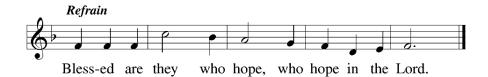


In you, O LORD, I have taken <u>ref</u>uge;* let me never be <u>put</u> to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your <u>right</u>eousness;* turn your ear to me and <u>save</u> me.

Be my rock of refuge to which I can <u>al</u>ways go;*
For you are my rock and my <u>for</u>tress.

Refrain





Since my youth, O God, you have <u>taught</u> me,* and to this day I declare your mar<u>vel</u>ous deeds.

Even when I am <u>old</u> and gray,* do not forsake <u>me</u>, O God,

till I declare your power to the next generation,* your might to all who are to come.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Robert J. Thompson. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

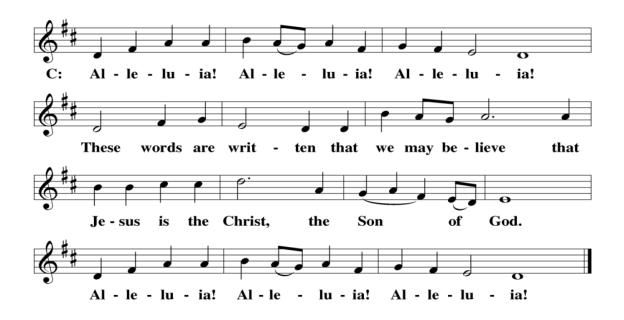
Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)



GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "Who are you then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" "No," he answered. ²² Then they asked him, "Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' just as Isaiah the prophet said." ²⁴ They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked John, "Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John answered. "Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (EHV)

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 18

ADVENT

18 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come 2 Love caused your in - car - na tion; Love brought you 3 Re sad - heart joice, then, you ed, Who sit 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur den, Let not your tions, A 5 He comes judge the na to ter - ror you a - right? greet Your peo ple long to you, down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va tion deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part ed guilt souls dis - tress; Your the Lord don will par to his foes, Α light of con - so - la tions, MyHope, my heart's De - light. O Je your sus, yond Pro cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be all your And trem - ble at doom. De spair not: he And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -And bless - ed hope those Who love the Lord's to ap -Word be lamp to light To show me Α my way, tell ing That led you to em brace In love. all you, near He's stand - ing at the door Who best can giv'n, The peace of His chil - dren cur ing sin for pear -O glo-rious Sun, Send ing. now come, forth your please day. how vou. To guide me to love ex cel ling, Our lost and fall - en race! you weep no help and cheer you And bids more. Α tage heav'n. thus se cur ing her - i in

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. composite.

most

beams

Tune: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN (76 76 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

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cheer

SERMON THEME:

"Question the Prophet?"

And

guide us

safe - ly

home.

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



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



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

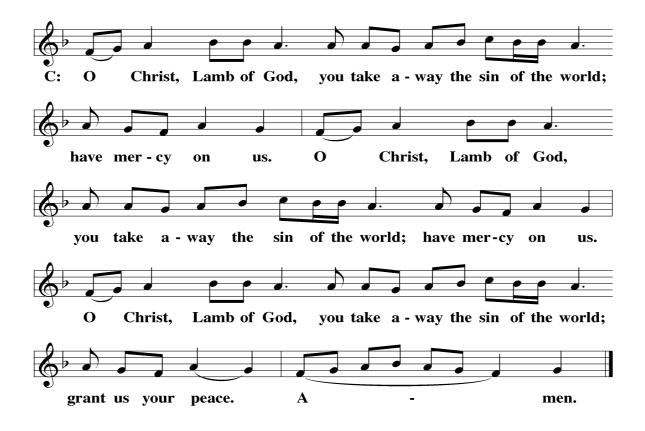
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: CW 81

CW 20

"Arise and Shine in Splendor"
"When All the World Was Cursed"

81

Arise and Shine in Splendor



Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, b. 1899–1987, alt.

Tune: EPIPHANY (776 778) Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929. © 1993 Bruce R. Backer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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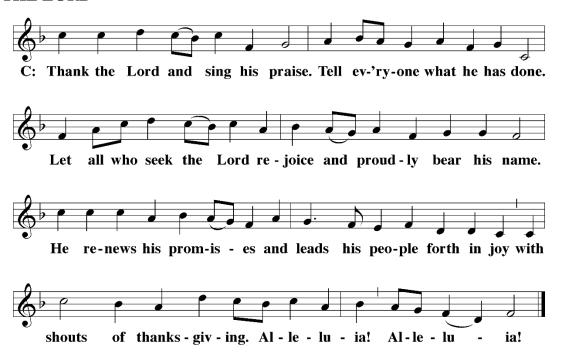
When All the World Was Cursed



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt. Tune: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT (67 67 66 66) Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701, alt.

STAND

THANK THE LORD



P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN: *CW* 577 (vs. 1 & 2)

MISSIONS

Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations 577 Rise, O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, Je - sus, bright and sal - va - tion, Know-ing your Grate - ful you and love May help the hea - then in-creased from our zeal Be to Sav - ior, shine all your glo - ry On in the na - tions Morn - ing your Word, glad - some ti - dings, Star; Let the pro er cease То claim your ten - der mer - cies, com - pas - sion the by - ways day, As day to we plead in true near and far; From the high - ways and Ring and Bring ing out loud ly near far, Gra cious your Lord. heav'n - ly peace. Let us And for their con ver - sion pray. For the Call Ο Morn - ing Star. them forth, Guide them Peace free - dom to the cap - tives, and com - fort sound the pel ti - dings To earth's gos the re man - y faith - ful work - ers, For the gos pel cho - sen Sa whom your grace has Out of tan's to the slave, That the hea - then, free from been mot est bound That the sin - ner has be claim, Let us all cheer ful they pro dread - ful thrall To the man - sions of your bond - age, May pro - claim your pow'r to save. par - doned And for give - ness can be found. То the glo of name. giv ers ry your ther-There is room for sin ners all.

Text: Herman Fick, 1822–85, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745, alt.



Officiants

Accompanist: Abbey Johnson Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; <u>gsitzman@zionmonroe.org</u> Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; <u>bschneck@zionmonroe.org</u>

VOTER'S MEETING— A new call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28th at 12:30 p.m. after the voter's meeting.

PAULA'S HOUSE: Once again this year Zion Church and School is supporting the women and the children who are staying at Paula's House. The giving tree is in the school hallway with gift tags. Please have the gift wrapped and returned to the school by **Monday, December 18**th. If you have time available and would like to come help us sort and label the gifts for delivery we are planning on Tuesday, December 19th after morning coffee at the Oasis (in the Zion gym) to begin work. Thank you in advance for all the support.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: A special event is coming in January. Friends In Faith is sponsoring a "baby shower" for our Pregnancy Care Center that is located in Redford, Michigan. Our "baby shower" will be **Sunday, January 14th** in the gymnasium. More information will be coming, including a wish list from the Pregnancy Care Center.

OFFERING PLATE: The Elders and Council have decided that as of Sunday, January 7th we are going to return to passing the offering plate.

TUITION FUNDS FOR ZION SCHOOL – There have been many questions recently regarding the Tuition Funds at Zion School. There are two separate funds:

- 1) "Zion Members Tuition Fund" This is for members of Zion who send their children to Zion school but need assistance with their tuition.
- 2) "General Tuition Fund" This is for students who attend Zion but are not members at Zion. This is to help them with the cost of attending school at Zion,

Individuals who are seeking assistance do have to apply for the help and provide information regarding why they have a need for assistance. If you would like to give to either of the funds at any time just indicate which fund on your church envelope. Thank you in advance for considering these funds.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Third Advent Worship Service (IC/CC)

10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Zion School Christmas Worship Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Fourth Advent Worship Service

NO Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

7:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service

Monday 9:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service

December Volunteers

	Nov. 29 & Dec. 3	Dec. 6 & 10	Dec. 13 & 17	Dec. 20	Dec. 24	Dec. 25	Dec. 31
Altar Guild			Linda Selvidge &	Diane Affholter			
Live Stream Helpers	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	9:00 a.m. Miller Sordahl 7:00 p.m. William Robinson	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger
Ushers	Nov. 29 Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Dec. 3 Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	Dec. 6 Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier Dec. 10 Dave Benge Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	Dec. 13 Dave Benge Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson Dec. 17 Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner	Dec. 20 Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner	Dec. 24 Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner 7:00 p.m. Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	Dec. 25 Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger	Dec. 31 Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier
Communion Helpers	<u>Nov. 29</u> Mark Kipf <u>Dec. 3</u> Jake Burke Alan Bober		<u>Dec. 13</u> Ken Vagt <u>Dec. 17</u> Rob Krueger Mark Kipf				