



4th Sunday *of* Advent

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 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 Fourth 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: Christ is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, the bearer of God's grace to all, and the one who came into the world as a child in a stable.

The Hymn of the Day: Once Again My Heart Rejoices

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 uses many word pictures from Scripture to tell of what the birth of Jesus means for us. We needed God to become man in order to deliver us. That is exactly what he did.

LITURGY: Service of Morning Praise

CW pg. 45

PRELUDE MUSIC: Three Carol Arrangements by Anna Laura Page

Angels We Have Heard on High

Piano/flute piece: Hark the Angels Sing

O Little Town of Bethlehem

I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

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 hand-held 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!

CHRISTMAS

67

What Child Is This

1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh;

On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - ing?
 Where ox - en now are feed - - - ing?
 Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
 Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here
 The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings;

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom
 Nails, this spear shall pierce the him through; The
 Raise, raise the song on high; The

shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
 cross he'll bear for me, for you.
 vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
 The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
 The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.
 Tune: GREENSLEEVES (87 87 68 67) English ballad, 16th century.

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

ALL:

O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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 love candle. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

C: **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Galatians 4:4,5; 1 John 4:9;10

Advent Candle is lighted

O, come, my Love, who gives to me Grace un - de - served, un -

ALL: end - ing, free. Help me to share this gift most rare

That all, God's hope and peace, may share. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

P: In the love 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 5:16-21

All:

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

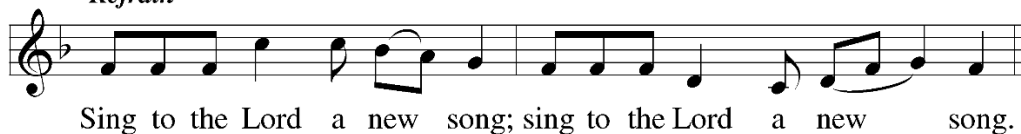
Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. ⁵Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this. (EHV)

PSALM 96

CW pg. 102

Refrain



Psalm tone



Sing to the LORD, praise his name;*
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,*
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;*
tremble before him, all the earth.

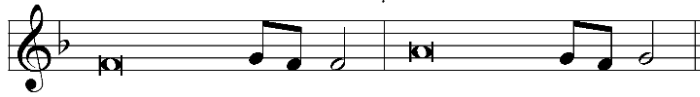
Refrain

Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Psalm tone



Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;*
let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.*
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness*
and the peoples in his truth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Alleluia. (Luke 2:11)

¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.” (EHV)

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 37 (vs. 1-4)

“Once Again My Heart Rejoices”

CHRISTMAS

37

Once Again My Heart Rejoices



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: “Now the foe,
 3 Should we still fear God’s dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man - kind’s place
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!”
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.
 One and all, “You are safe from dan - ger.



“Christ is born!” their choirs are sing - ing Till the air
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - ’ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.
 All you need I will sure - ly give you.”

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
 One and all,
 Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness;
 We shall live with him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

SERMON TITLE:

The Living Nativity

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

Te Deum



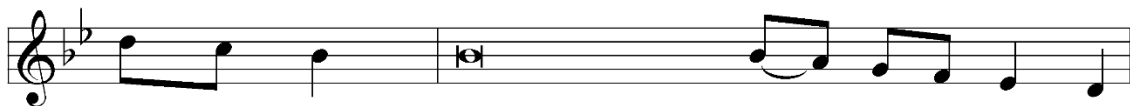
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



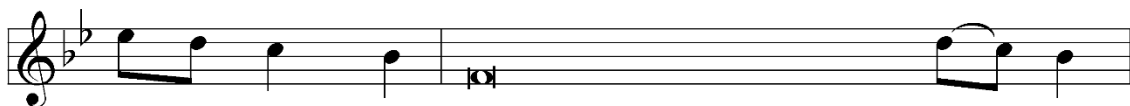
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



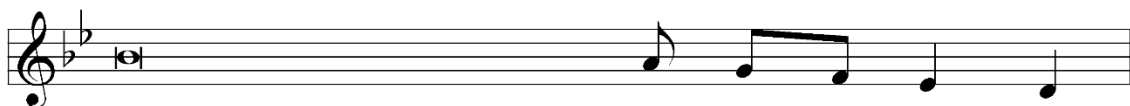
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



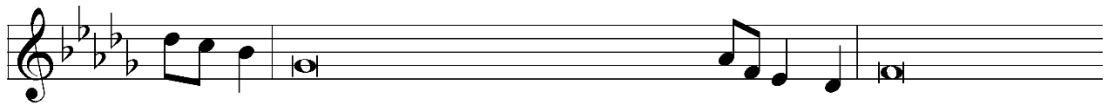
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



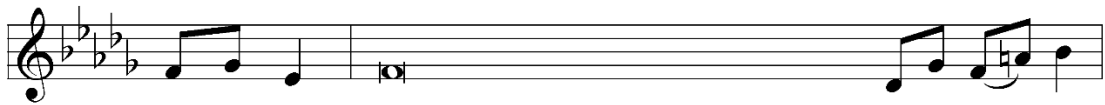
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

CHRISTMAS

37

Once Again My Heart Rejoices



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 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: “Now the foe,
 3 Should we still fear God’s dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,
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 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



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“Christ is born!” their choirs are sing - ing Till the air
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - ’ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.
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 All you need I will sure - ly give you.”

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 Great and small,
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 We shall live with him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr. adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN (8 33 6 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

POSTLUDE MUSIC: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (God Be With You Gentlemen)
 by Lani Smith

Officiants
 Accompanist: Dottie Bober
 Pianist & flutist: Stephanie Sitzman and Rachael Krueger
 Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

2023 Christmas Poinsettias



In Memory of . . .

In memory of our parents, Russell & Madeline Vitale, and Roland & Frances Hoenecke
from Russ and Mona Vitale

In memory of loved ones from Jim and Kathy Vanisacker

In memory of loved ones from Ken and Gail Heusman

In memory of David C. Holsen and Arvin Schneck from Bryan and Deanna Schneck

In memory of Kenneth and Margaret Pitcher from Carol Pitcher

In memory of loved ones from Bari and Wendy Waltz

In memory of Hazel (Birdie) Duby from Mark and Paula Kipf

In memory of Gary Nied from Beth and family

In memory of Dannie Younglove and all family members gone from Lee A. Younglove

In memory of Larry Miller and Tim Miller from Annette Miller and family

In memory of our parents: Frank & Evelyn Tomczak and Roger & Della Premo
from Frank and Kris Tomczak

In memory of Nora & Henry Kiiffner and Anne & Andy Bober from Alan and Dottie Bober

In memory of Bob McLaughlin from Nancy McLaughlin

In memory of Lloyd & Audrey Miller and Elijah Gedelian from Jim and Denise Miller

In memory of Rita Raasch from Howard Raasch and Juergen and Lorrie Koenig

In memory of loved ones from Carol Eshelman and family

In memory of parents Leonard and Leona Selvidge and brother Robert Selvidge
from Linda C. Selvidge

In memory of our parents from Ray and Melanie Palmatier

In memory of Ernest & Margaret Howerton and Urban & MaryJane Trowbridge
from Robert and Joyce Trowbridge

In memory of Peggy Lanagan from Barbra Krueger

In memory of Lyle Kull, Kevin Kull, Kristie Fultz, and Billie Duvall from Maxine Kull

For Blessings Received . . .

Beth and Bryce Mueller

Ray and Brenda Chandonnet

Marv and Jean Baumann

Larry and Deb Sachs

The blessing of our 3 grandchildren & the coming of 2 more in mid 2024
from Mark and Sherry Fuerstenberg

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

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

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

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. There is a wish list from the Pregnancy Care Center and sign-up sheet to attend the shower in the west foyer.

Ushers Needed:

Dear Members of Zion,

Zion is currently in need of ushers to be added to existing ushering teams. To be an usher you simply need to be a confirmed member of Zion. Ushers typically arrive 20 - 30 minutes prior to service, make sure the hymn boards are updated, candles are lit, etc. There is a list of "usher duties" so don't worry about having to remember it all. We are simply looking for any confirmed member, male or female, willing to serve on an Ushering team. It's a great way to meet more of your Zion family and help our worship services run smoothly.

Willing and interested? Awesome! Please reach out to Rob Krueger, Stewardship chairman at 734-770-1149 or talk with Mark Kipf, Elders chairman at church.

Thank you for considering using your gift of Time!

Board of Stewardship

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. Fourth Advent Worship Service
 NO Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class
 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

Monday 9:00 a.m. Festival Worship Service

Tuesday NO Adult Bible Class

Wednesday NO Worship Service

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 NO Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

January Volunteers

	Dec. 31	Jan. 3 & 7	Jan. 10 & 14	Jan. 17 & 21	Jan. 24 & 28	Jan. 31 & Feb. 4
Altar Guild			Kathy	Vanisacker		
Live Stream Helpers	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	Steve Sordahl	Miller Sordahl	William Robinson	Rob Krueger
Ushers	<u>Dec. 31</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier	<u>Jan. 3</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier <u>Jan. 7</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Mathewt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u>Jan. 10</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson <u>Jan. 14</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner	<u>Jan. 17</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick Zach Turner <u>Jan. 21</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	<u>Jan. 24</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale <u>Jan. 28</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger	<u>Jan. 31</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger <u>Feb. 4</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier
Communion Helpers		<u>Jan. 3</u> Mark Kipf <u>Jan. 7</u> Erich Freiny Steve Sordahl		<u>Jan. 17</u> Ken Vagt <u>Jan. 21</u> Jeremy Robinson Rob Krueger		<u>Jan. 31</u> Ken Vagt <u>Feb. 4</u> Mark Kipf Jake Burke



Please join us for

A POTLUCK

BABY shower

for our

Pregnancy Care Center

14 | 12:00 noon
JAN | Zion Auditorium

More Information and Sign-up
in the West Foyer