

December 4, 2022 • Second Sunday in Advent  
9:00 and 11:30am



**Zion** lutheran  
church

## WELCOME TO ZION

We are a historic church that loves being part of the vibrant, growing community of northwest San Antonio. We bring people together knowing we are fallible and imperfect, and we help share God's love and grace.

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our modern lives with Christ.

Faith is an ever-present curiosity. As we live our daily lives, we explore God's teachings and respond with God's love by serving our community, locally and globally. If you're looking for a church that has all the answers for you – well, that isn't us!

We are a community of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here! So come and join us as we explore life with God.

## HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness life and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

Worship leaders guide us through sacrament and prayer and our responses are printed in bold type.

Throughout our service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. We invite you to receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God, rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • [zion@zionsa.org](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)



# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.*

## THE ADVENT WREATH

*One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting happen amid the growing darkness of winter. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.*

## PRELUDE & WELCOME

9:00

*Stay Awake, Be Ready*, by Walken

Children's Choir

11:30

*Fling Wide the Door*, setting by Farlee

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## GATHERING HYMN

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Choir Only

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"  
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The first system contains the first five lines of the hymn. The second system contains the final three lines of the hymn. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878  
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

# GREETING

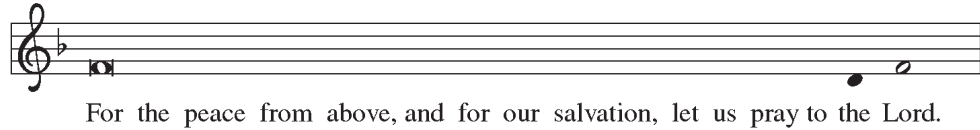
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

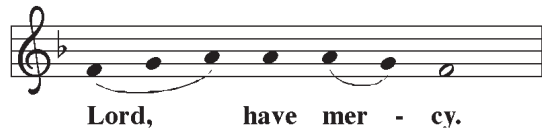
# KYRIE



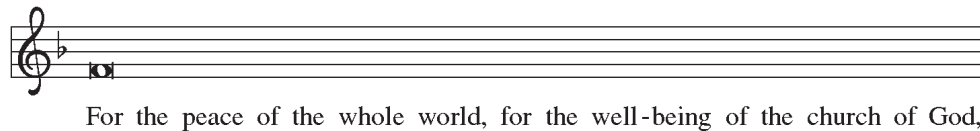
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



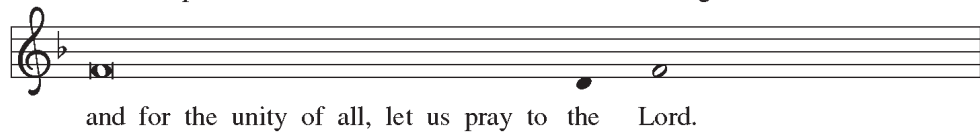
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



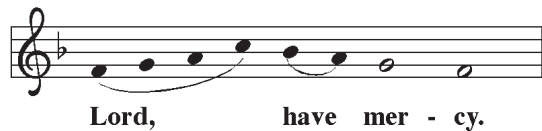
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



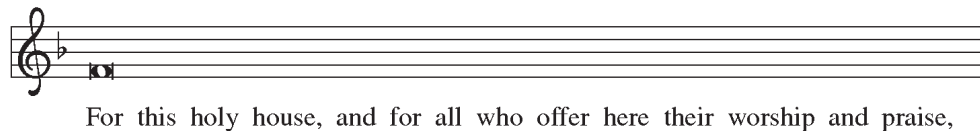
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



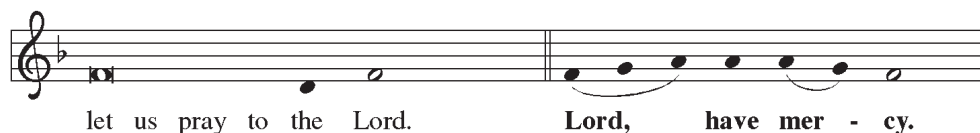
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



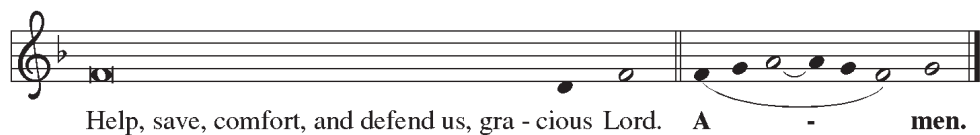
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Presiding Minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*As the candles are lit, we pray:*

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### 9:00 CHILDREN'S CHAT

*Shiloh Love*

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Spark Children's Bible Page 172  
God's Peaceful World

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# PSALM 72

## Refrain

Michel Guimont



Jus - tice shall flour - ish in his time, and  
full - ness of peace for ev - er.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. *℟.*

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. *℟.*

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. *℟.*

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. *℟.*

Psalm Refrain © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All Rights Reserved  
Psalm Verses © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.  
Music Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup>and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

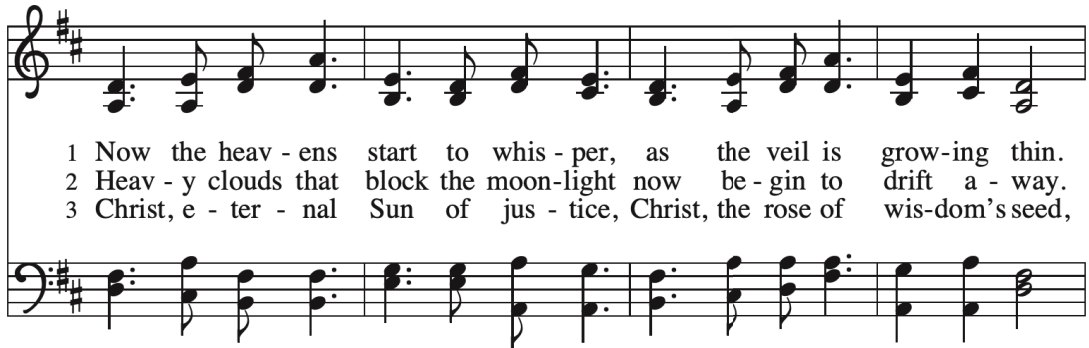


SERMON

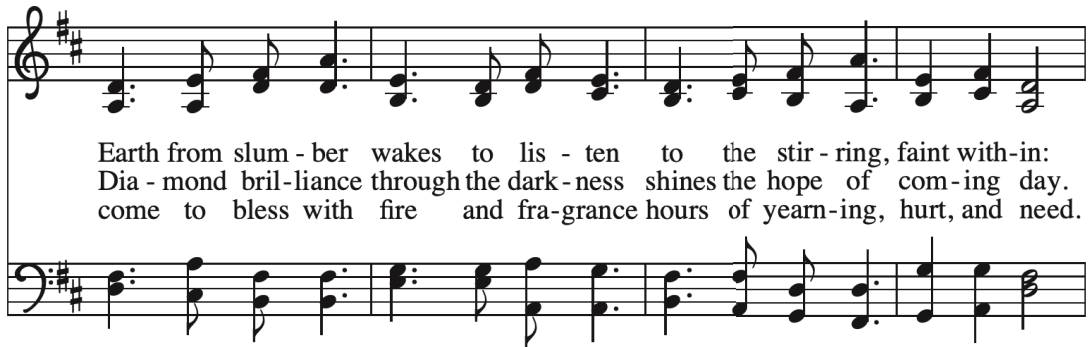
Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

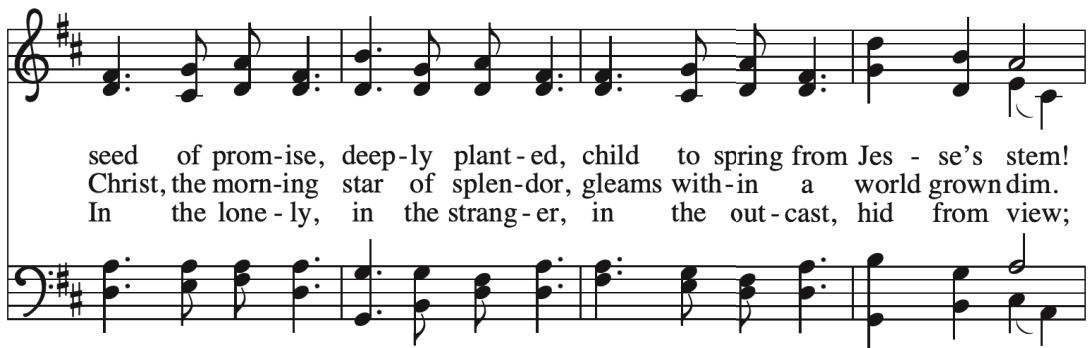
HYMN OF THE DAY  
*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*



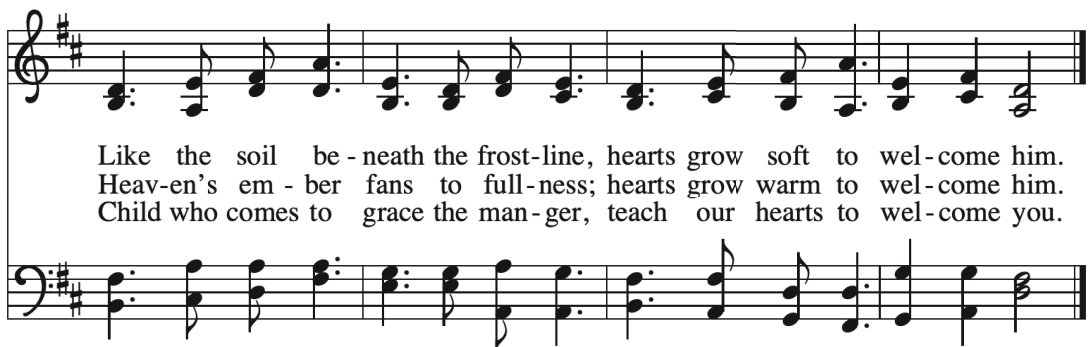
1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*catholic: universal*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we gather together in watching and waiting, O Lord, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition is spoken, respond by singing:*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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We entrust all of these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
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## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

## OFFERING

*At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit [ZionSA.org](http://ZionSA.org). Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.*

## OFFERING MUSIC

|       |                                       |                  |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 9:00  | <i>Soon and Very Soon</i> , by Crouch | Children's Choir |
| 11:30 | <i>Veni Emmanuel</i> , by Liebergen   | Youth Choir      |

*Please rise, as you are able.*

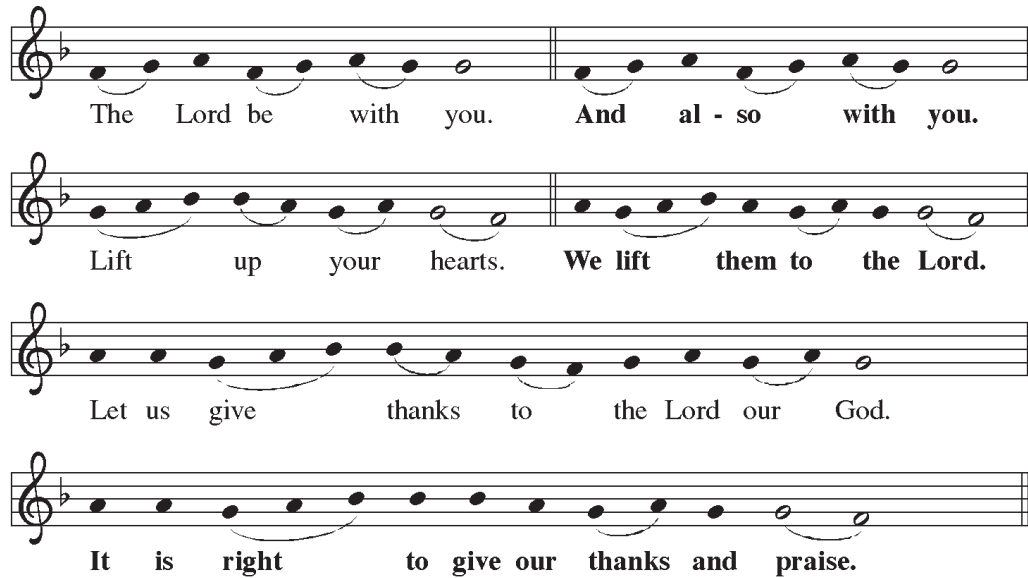
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,

**You bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

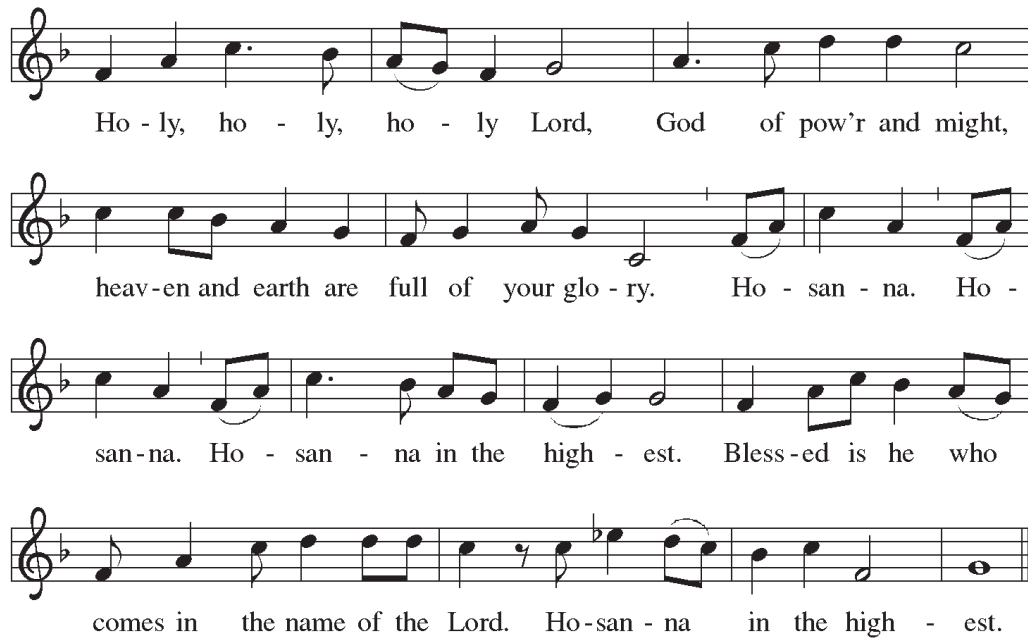
**Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

**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

Christ invites you to this table. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

*Here I Am, Lord*, by Schutte

Children's Choir

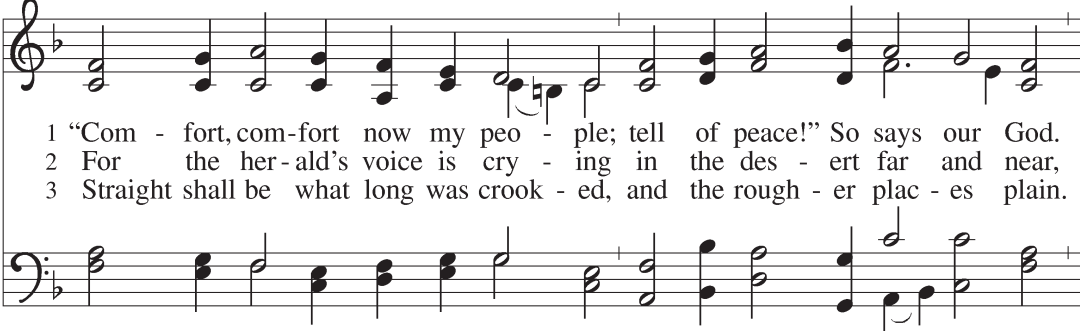
11:30

*Prepare, Ye the Way of the Lord*, by Rodriguez

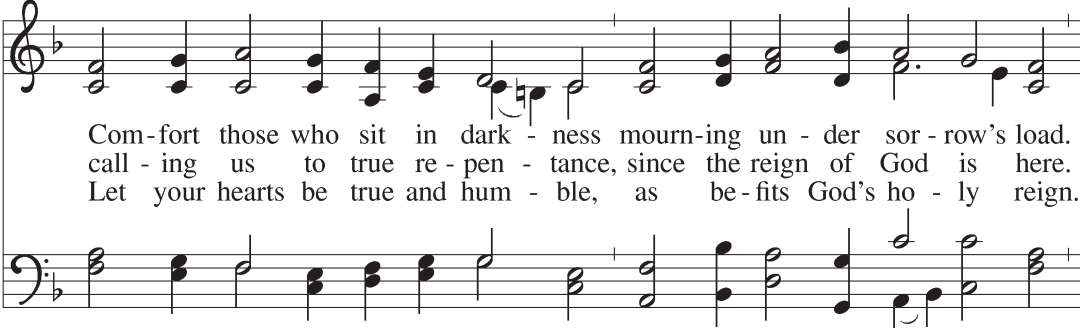
Youth Choir

# COMMUNION HYMN

## *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*



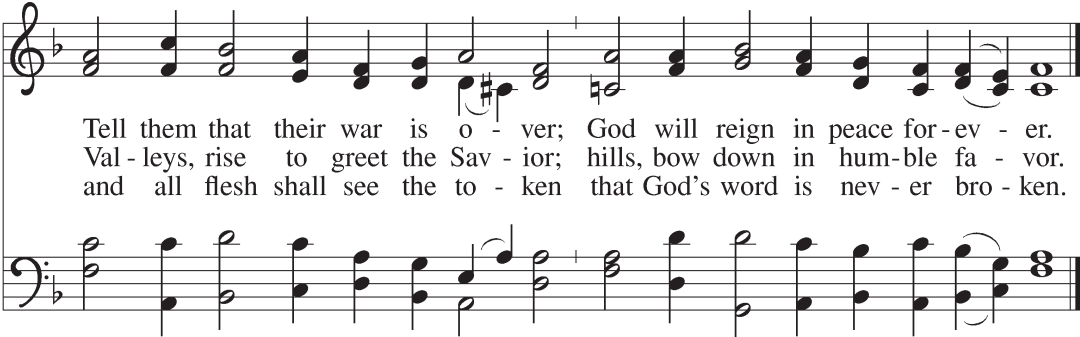
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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



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



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

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

*After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.*

## BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

## BENEDICTION

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*, setting by Archer

## AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

*Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.*



# SENDING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

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

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

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

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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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**THIS  
WEEK  
AT  
ZION**



*Scan this QR code for  
web calendar*

**Sunday, December 4**

|                              |          |                    |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Christmas Tea Sign-up        |          | Gazebo             |
| Worship in person            | 9am      | Sanctuary          |
| Faith Formation Hour         | 10:15    | Details next page  |
| Adult Class: Week Ahead      | 10:15    | Fellowship Hall    |
| Adult Class: Advent Forum    | 10:15    | Ministry Ctr 1     |
| Worship in person and online | 11:30    | Sanc & YouTube     |
| Nativity Rehearsal           | 1:30-3pm | Family Life Center |

**Monday, December 5**

|                  |     |              |
|------------------|-----|--------------|
| Game Group       | 1pm | FLC 101      |
| LMM Planning Mtg | 6pm | FLC Room 101 |

**Tuesday, December 6**

|                                 |        |                 |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Exercise Group                  | 9am    | Church 2        |
| Diamond Plus Christmas Luncheon | 10:30  | Fellowship Hall |
| Bell Choir                      | 6:30   | Sanc Balcony    |
| Children's Choir                | 7-7:45 | Ministry Ctr 1  |
| Youth Choir                     | 7pm    | Music Apse      |
| Warriors Anonymous              | 7pm    | Church 2        |
| Adult Advent Forum              | 7:30   | Zoom            |

**Wednesday, December 7**

|                                  |        |                  |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| High School/Elementary Mentoring | 7:15am | Nichols' Elem.   |
| Crafty Bunch                     | 9:30   | Ed Bldg Craft Rm |
| Midweek Worship                  | 6:30   | Church 1/Chapel  |
| Chancel Choir                    | 7:15   | Sanctuary        |
| Alcoholics Anonymous             | 7pm    | FLC 202          |
| Al-Anon Meeting                  | 7pm    | FLC 101          |

**Thursday, December 8**

|                                      |      |           |
|--------------------------------------|------|-----------|
| Weight Watchers Mtg                  | 9:30 | Church 2  |
| River City Ringers Christmas Concert | 7pm  | Sanctuary |
| Fiesta Flutes                        | 7pm  | Church 2  |
| Stephen Ministry                     | 7pm  | FLC 101   |

Calendar continued next page

**Worship Support**

**ALTAR GUILD AND  
BREAD OFFERING**

Randalyn Nickel, Sharon Meade  
Karen Umlang, Eileen & Mel Berg  
Susan Wright

**LAY READERS**

9:00

Kevin Hoag

11:30

Joe Noonan

**CANTOR**

Shelby Elkin

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

9:00

Lisa Beekley, Philip Beekley

11:30

Steve Johnson, Chris Jones

**LIVESTREAM**

David Umlang

Steve Johnson

**SOUND**

Scott Van Doren

**DECEMBER USHERS**

David Umlang

Bonnie and Brinkley Harrell

Amy Swanson, Bev Rosel

Dan Graham

Pam Gammage

Brandon Dubuisson

Mike DeHart, Chris Berg

## Sunday Faith Formation

### CHILDREN

Music Opening in MC 1 at 10:15  
Children age three years and older meet in the new Ministry Center Room 1 for opening music with Ms. Sammy, then go to classrooms.

### YOUTH CLASSES

Begin at 10:15

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Grade 6-7   | MC Room 5 |
| Grade 8-9   | MC Room 7 |
| Grade 10-12 | MC Room 8 |

### ADULT CLASSES TODAY

#### ***Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes Adult Advent Forum***

begins December 4 *and* 6  
Twice each week, Amy McFadden leads an adult forum on the book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell.

- Sunday mornings December 4, 11 and 18 at 10:30am in MC 1. Includes a take-home Christmas decoration project.
- Tuesday evenings December 6, 13 and 20 at 7:30pm on Zoom. Contact the church office for Zoom link.

Book purchase not required, but is recommended. Scan this QR or use Amazon amzn. to/3SYE1I7.



#### ***Week Ahead Bible Study***

10:15 at with Pastor Dave or Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall. Take a look at the lessons we have in worship each week. What's their context? How do we make sense of them as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians?

Calendar, continued

### Friday, December 9

|                               |          |                |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Set Up for Christmas Tea      | 10am-2pm | FLC Great Room |
| Cantata Rehearsal - Orchestra | 7pm      | Sanctuary      |

### Saturday, December 10

|                           |          |                |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Weight Watchers Mtg       | 9am      | Church 2       |
| Cantata Rehearsal - Choir | 10am     | Sanctuary      |
| Set Up for Christmas Tea  | 10am-2pm | FLC Great Room |
| Christmas Tea             | 3-5pm    | FLC Great Room |

### Sunday, December 11

|  |          |                    |
|--|----------|--------------------|
| Worship and Cantata, in person         | 9am      | Sanctuary          |
| Faith Formation Hour                   | 10:15    | Details next page  |
| Adult Classes same as Dec 4            | 10:15    | FH and MC 1        |
| Worship and Cantata in person & online | 11:30    | Sanc & YouTube     |
| Nativity Rehearsal                     | 1:30-3pm | Family Life Center |

### Final Sign Up Today for Women's Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 10 from 3:00-5:00pm

Women of ALL ages are invited to the annual WELCA Christmas Tea, on Saturday, December 10. The only admission

cost is a new item

of women's undergarment. Hostesses and guests are asked to sign up in the gazebo TODAY. Contact Mary Jo Goldenbaum, via the church office, if you have questions in the meantime.



### Advent Community Prayer Net

Today, swing by the Ministry Center, respond to a prayer prompt and add a blue Advent ribbon to the net. This project will run through the Sundays in Advent. The net started at an intergenerational All Saints Sunday event with white ribbons commemorating Saints in our lives. Observe Advent and help beautify the new Ministry Center!

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## Children's Nativity

Saturday, December 17 at 3pm in the FLC

Children from Zion's Faith Formation program and Drama Ministry are combining to tell and sing the story of the birth of Jesus.

Sammy Mikulski theatre@zionsa.org  
Pastor Dan Heim dheim@zionsa.org  
Office phone 210-688-3090

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## One More Week for Sock & Shoe Collection

for Cristo Rey of Hope Community Christmas Store  
Zion is collecting shoes and socks for Cristo Rey of Hope, an organization serving residents in Central San Antonio. As you are doing your Christmas shopping, please purchase shoes and socks for children, toddlers through teens, and bring them to the church by next Sunday, December 11.



## cam Emergency Christmas Toy Drive

Looking for ways to brighten a child's Christmas? You can shop on-line or in a store. You can volunteer to work at the CAM store. Go to <https://bit.ly/3Uj10zf> or scan this QR code to find out about the Christian Assistance Ministry Store program.



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## Weekday Construction on Leslie Road

The City of San Antonio is working on Leslie Road between Braun and 1604 on weekdays (weather permitting). Traffic may be reduced to one lane. Please be mindful of directions given by the construction crew and be prepared for delays. Traffic on Saturdays and Sundays won't be affected.

*Your  
generosity  
empowers  
Zion's  
ministry.*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.





## CONTACT



zionsa.org



zionsa



@zionsatx



zion@zionsa.org



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm  
Friday close at 3:00pm

## STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Dave - Friday  
dschulte@zionsa.org

Pastor Kathi - Monday  
kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday  
dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday  
rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday  
theatre@zionsa.org

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## Music Rehearsals

|                   |                 |            |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Handbells         | Tues 6:30       | Balcony    |
| Children (Gr 2-5) | Tues 7-7:45     | MC Rm 1    |
| Youth (Gr 6-12)   | Tues 7-8pm      | Music Apse |
| Chancel (Adult)   | Wed 7:15        | Sanctuary  |
| Cantata Orchestra | Fri 7pm Dec 9   | Sanctuary  |
| Cantata Choir     | Sat 10am Dec 10 | Sanctuary  |

The Christmas Cantata presentation, Handel's *Messiah, Part I*, will be part of both the 9:00 and 11:30am worship services on Sunday, December 11.

## Midweek Worship in Advent

6:30pm in Church 1

Simple service of Holy Communion, every Wednesday in Zion's historic chapel. Each week will explore different themes related to our Advent season: *Breathe, Release, Receive, Rejoice*

## Zion Zippers

Monday, December 12 at 6:00pm

Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey and ham will be provided, so bring a side dish or dessert to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too!

After dinner, hang around for entertainment featuring a Christmas sing-along, and a visit with Santa!

## Game Group

December 5 and 19 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101 on the first and third Mondays.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

Zion is  
a Stephen  
Ministry  
Church



A Great Way  
You Can Help a  
Hurting Friend

Do you have a friend, coworker, or relative who is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them—tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers have received special training to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people may be: grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with a cancer diagnosis, going through a divorce or separation, battling a chronic illness (or caring for a spouse or parent who is chronically ill), experiencing a great deal of stress, facing the loss of a job—or encountering any of countless other life challenges.

Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care! To learn how to connect someone you know with a Stephen Minister, talk with LeShea Clabough via the church office, 210-688-3090.



## MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday, December 14 in MC Room 1  
Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) supports moms by building community for

growth in faith and as parents. Monthly meetings are in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon on the second Wednesday. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those second Wednesdays.



Scan the QR to contact Nicole Stender (mops@zion-sa.org) to register, volunteer or get more info!

## Call Committee Update

The call committee completed seven initial interviews with pastoral candidates over the last week. People of Zion, we were blown away by the gifts and talents of the candidates! We are confident that Zion will be in good hands at the end of this process. The call committee will meet again next week to narrow down the pool of candidates and discuss second interviews.

As the committee and the candidates enter this Advent season, please understand that the process will likely slow down until January. We ask for your prayers and patience as we continue to work through this process.

## Slide Show Presentation

for Pastor Dave's Retirement Celebration on January 14. Please share your photos of Pastor Dave. Send pictures to Anna Schulte at [annajschulte@gmail.com](mailto:annajschulte@gmail.com) by December 31.

Event details and RSVP info coming next week.

DECEMBER 4, 2022  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God of judgement, mercy, and peace.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

|           |                      |                                     |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Matthew 3:1-12       | Prepare the way of the Lord         |
| Monday    | Isaiah 11:1-10       | The peaceful kingdom                |
| Tuesday   | Romans 15:4-13       | Good news for Jews and Gentiles     |
| Wednesday | Psalms 96            | Praise to God who comes in judgment |
| Thursday  | Psalms 149           | Praise for God's goodness to Israel |
| Friday    | James 3:13-18        | Two kinds of wisdom                 |
| Saturday  | Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19 | A prayer for guidance for the king  |
| Sunday    | Matthew 11:2-11      | Jesus and John the Baptist          |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, help us to see in your judgment the cleansing power that frees us to bear the fruit of the new life in Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of peace and love, we thank you for this food and ask that all people have food on their tables and a roof over their heads. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:13)



DECEMBER 4, 2022

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come Now, O Prince of  
Peace*



taking  
faith  
home

## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you think of God as judge, what do you imagine?
- Have you ever felt judged because of your faith in God? Explain.

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Matthew 3:1-12.

In the Gospel of Matthew, no one gets a free pass. Pharisees and Sadducees are severely chastised. The masses are shown following almost anyone at any given moment. The disciples display their own shortcomings throughout the Gospel. John the Baptist questions if Jesus really is the anticipated Messiah (Matthew 11:2-3). Jesus' own righteousness gets betrayed, even by those closest to him. It is clear that God's rule needs divine judgment. It's not a judgment that desires punishment but one that brings truth to misunderstanding and cleansing and humility to offset self-righteousness. God's judgment is about correction and new beginnings, not threats. God's judgment finds all of us coming up short and in need of a Savior, in the need of Jesus. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and baptized him. Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit cleanses to create a changed life. The result is a people set free to bear fruit in Jesus' name.

*Discuss:* In what ways have you been set free to bear fruit in Jesus' name?

*Pray:* **God of judgment and mercy, cleanse our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit that we may trust in you and bear the fruit of peace, joy, and love for all through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

## SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve the poor and needy with fairness and compassion rather than judgement?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ. For this second week of Advent, light the first candle of hope and a second candle of peace on the Advent wreath. This week, we focus on the peace that Jesus brings us to set aside our differences and trust in God's promise.

*Say:* **Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord, the light of Christ that gives us hope and peace.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)