

November 12, 2023 • Season of Pentecost
10:00am



Zion  *lutheran
church*

WELCOME TO ZION

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 lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group 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!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please 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.

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

As we wind down the Church Year for 2023, we jump from our last true "Green Season" Sunday on November 12 to Zion's annual Sunday of Giving Thanks on November 19. Each year on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday, we as a congregation also take time to focus on giving thanks to God. Then, on the last Sunday of the month (November 26), the Church Year finishes with Christ the King Sunday: "Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds" (*Sundays & Seasons*).

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Deep River by Terry Osman

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.
heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain

We're march-ing to Zi - on, beau - ti-ful, beau - ti-ful Zi - on:

we're march-ing up-ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti-ful cit-y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
 Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: AMOS 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

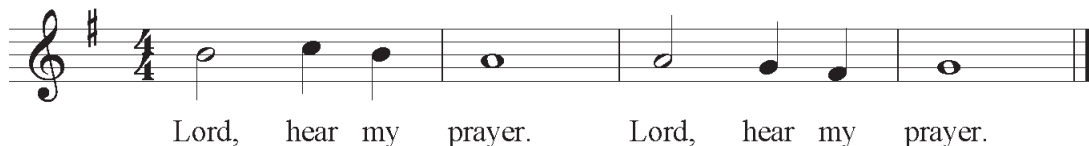
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

PSALM 70

Refrain

Hal Hopson



May the Lord be pleased to save me; Hasten, for the time draws near
When the vicious hosts of evil, At my shattered camp appear. *Refrain.*

Turn them back, the proud, the mighty, Let them fall in their conceit;
Bid the foes that would o'erwhelm me, Trace their path in swift retreat. *Refrain.*

I alone cannot withstand them, God, my strength, be at my side;
In your courts, secure, protected, Soon O Lord, let me abide. *Refrain.*

Refrain text: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Bimamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

Music: Tune: a trad. Russian chant (PD).

Setting: Hal H. Hopson, and copyright © 2008 Bimamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers.

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SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1-13

Ten Bridesmaids
Spark Children's Bible Page 314

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Please be seated.

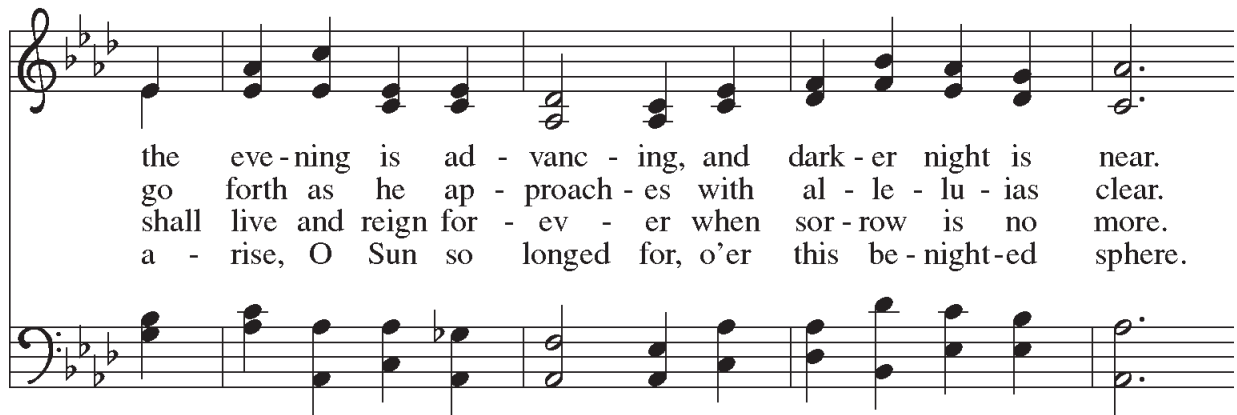
SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

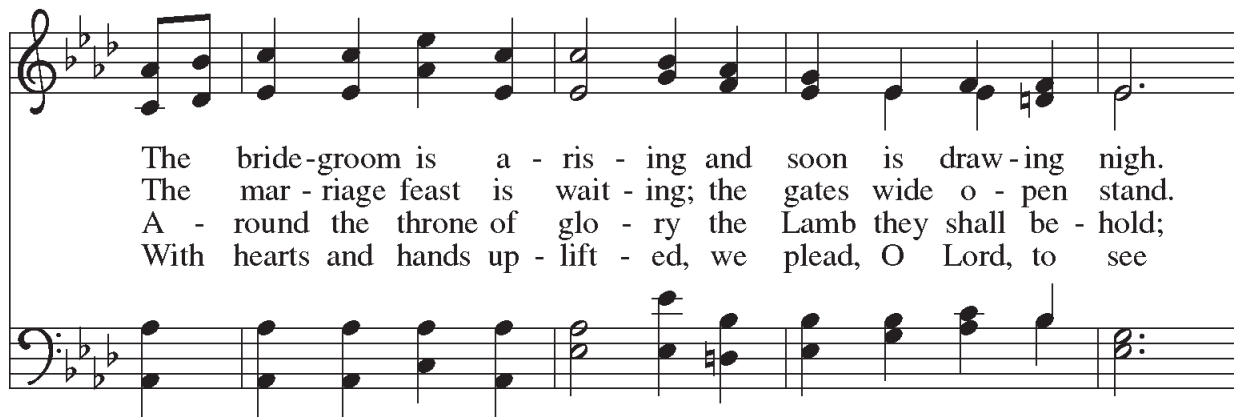
Please rise, as you are able.



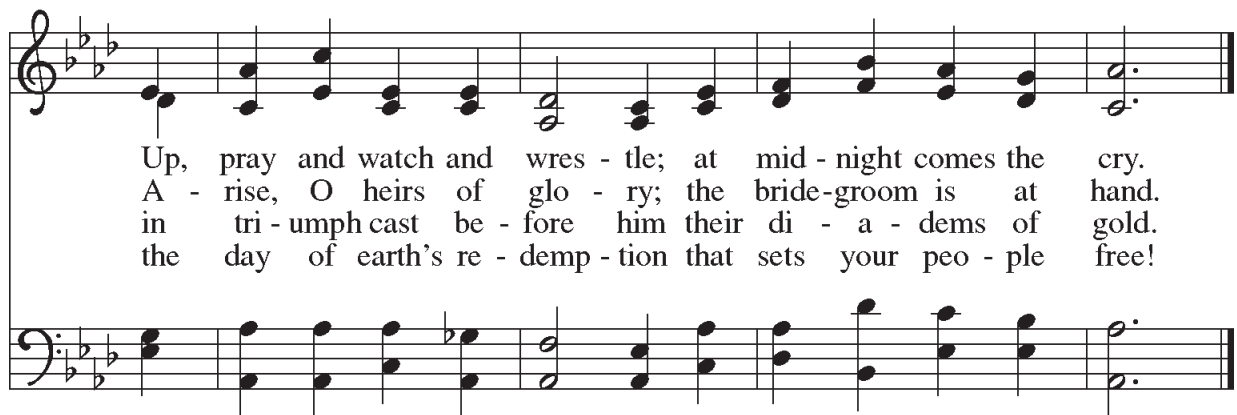
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the 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

Let us turn our hearts to God as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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. 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

My Lord, What a Morning
arranged by Victor C. Johnson

Youth Choir

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

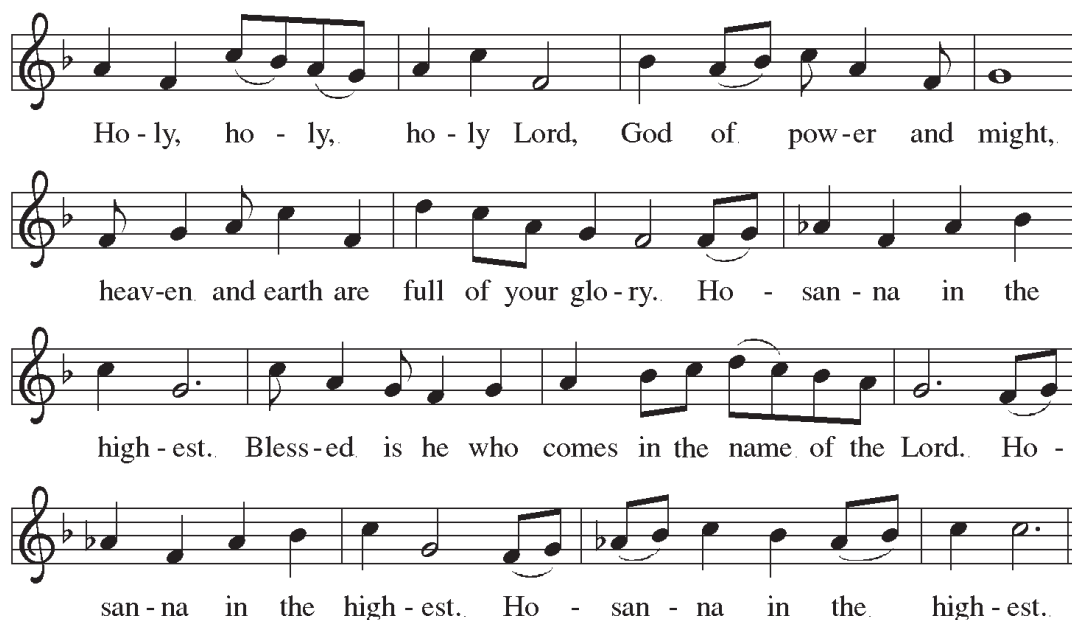
Lift up your hearts.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us ✠ and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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

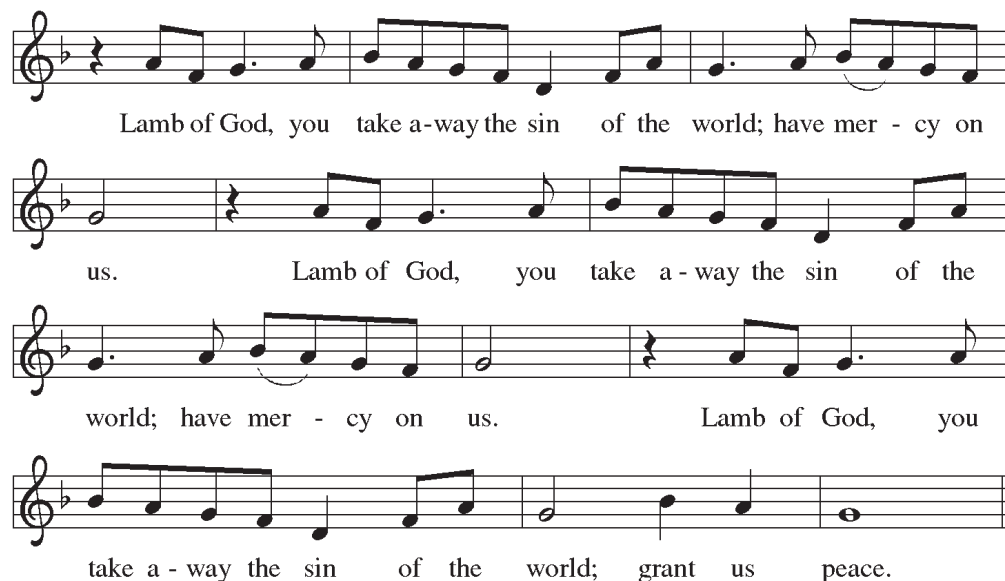
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional; arr. hymnal version
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COMMUNION MUSIC

Baba Yetu
by Christopher Tin

Youth Choir

Translation: *The Lord's Prayer* (sung in Swahili)

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:

this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (next page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
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**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Sunday, November 12

Bethlehem Art from the Holy Land 8:30-12:45 Conference Room

Worship in person and online,
one worship service today 10am Sanctuary

Pastoral Call Congregational Meeting 11:15 Sanctuary

Congregational Meeting & Elections 11:45 Sanctuary

Handel's Messiah Performance 4pm Sanctuary

Monday, November 13

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 14

Exercise Group 9am Church 2

Women of Zion Bible Study 10am Fellowship Hall

Executive Committee 6pm Fellowship Hall

Council Mtg 6:30 Fellowship Hall

Handbell Choir 6:30 Sanctuary Balcony

Children's Choir 7-7:45 Ministry Center 1

Youth Choir 7pm Music Apse

Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

Wednesday, November 15

High School/Elementary Mentoring 7:15am Nichols Elementary

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Crafty Bunch 9:30 Ed Bldg Craft Rm

Midweek Worship Services 1:00 & 6:30 Chapel (Church 1)

AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm FLC 202

Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FLC 101

Chancel Choir 7:15 Sanctuary

Thursday, November 16

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 9:30 Fellowship Hall

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2

Youth Night 6:30 Ministry Center

Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal 7pm Church 2

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Reader

Karen Umlang

Cantor

Shelby Elkin

Communion Servers

LeShea Clabough & Kevin McGee

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

Rachel Williams, Karen Stoldt
Linda & Bruce Krueger
Stuart Williams, Pam Gammage

STAFF CONTACT

	<i>Day Off</i>
Pastor Kathi Johnson Kjohnson@ZionSA.org	<i>Monday</i>
Pastor Dan Heim Dheim@ZionSA.org	<i>Friday</i>
Suzie Wyatt, Administrator Swyatt@ZionSA.org	<i>Thursday afternoon</i>
Rob Mikulski, Music Director Rmikulski@ZionSA.org	<i>Monday</i>
Sammy Mikulski, Theatre Director Theatre@ZionSA.org	<i>Monday</i>

Calendar continued next page

Two Meetings after Worship TODAY

- 11:15 Meeting to vote on the Call for our next Senior Pastor. The candidate is Pastor Kathi Johnson.
- 11:45 Annual congregational meeting with elections (Council President and Members at Large, Cemetery Board, 2024 Nominating Team, and Endowment Committee); approval of 2024 Spending Plan; approval of cell tower installation.



Bethlehem Art at Zion Today

Come to the Conference Room

Olive wood carvings from the Holy Land: nativity sets, orna-

ments, crosses and more. Hand-crafted by one of Bethlehem's oldest Christian families. Come to the conference room before worship or after the meetings today. Scan the QR to preview.



Crafty Bunch Christmas Craft Sale



Next Sunday, November 19 in the Gazebo

Home decor, ornaments, kitchen linens, toys and treats.

Saturday, November 18

Weight Watchers Meetings 7:30 & 9:30am Church 2

Sunday, November 19

Thankoffering Sunday

Crafty Bunch Christmas Craft Sale

Gazebo

Worship in person

9am Sanctuary

Faith Formation Hour for all ages

10:15 Details page 21

Adult Class with Pastor Kathi

10:15 Fellowship Hall

Worship in person and online

11:30 Sanc & YouTube

TODAY, November 12 at 4:00pm

A sacred oratorio performance on Baroque period instruments in Zion's sanctuary

MESSIAH

by George Frideric Handel



**Zion Lutheran Chancel Choir
and
Sonido Barroco**

Zion Zippers November 13

Zion Zippers meets on the second Monday each month for a potluck supper, fellowship and entertainment geared toward adults age 50+. The dinner bell rings at 6:00pm. Bring a potluck dish or two to share, and expect some lively conversation!

On November 13, the guest speaker is veteran, author and educator Dr. Mario Longoria, "Remembering Military Service: Its Meaning and Significance".

Kathy Newman coordinates Zippers events - contact her or the church office if you have an idea or a question.

Women of Zion

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Scan the QR to get on the email list, or send an email to WOZ@zionsa.org.



WOZ Bible Study & More

Tuesday, November 14

Fellowship, service projects, and Bible study on the second Tuesday each month. 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!



First Baptist Church is at 14889 Old Bandera Rd in Helotes. Our Pastor Dan Heim will be the guest preacher at this community worship on November 16.

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm
in Church 1

Simple communion worship services
in Zion's historic chapel.

Music Rehearsals

Handbells

Tuesday 6:30 Balcony

Children's (Gr 2-5)

Tuesday 7-7:45 MC Rm 1

Youth (Gr 6-12)

Tuesday 7-8pm Apse

Chancel (Adult)

Wednesday 7:15 Sanctuary

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OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@zionsa.org



Website zionsa.org



Facebook zionsa



Instagram @zionsatx



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

UPDATE to Zion's Recycling Collection

Zion is currently collecting ONLY aluminum cans in the swing-top collection barrel in the south (cemetery side) parking lot, next to the shed. For the health and safety of our volunteers,

- Please empty, dry, and crush aluminum beverage cans, without any food or beverage residue that will attract vermin.
- Do not include plastic-lined cans, steel cans or other metal in this swing-top aluminum can collection barrel.
- Do not put paper, plastic, food or any other trash in this swing-top aluminum can collection barrel. A trash can is provided nearby for everything else.

Sunday Faith Formation

Resumes next Sunday, November 19 at 10:15am

Meet in Ministry Center classrooms.

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–4	MC-4
Grades 5–7	MC-5
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

All resume next Sunday, November 19

The Liturgical Year with Pastor Kathi

Come to the Fellowship Hall at 10:20. Discussion is loosely based on the book *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* by Laurence Hull Stookey (which is NOT required reading).

Down + Out

Meet in MC-6 (upstairs) at 10:15. Explore themes of the Lutheran Christian faith with John Macha and other volunteer leaders. Six-part video series “re-introduces you to the life-changing reality of God’s promises, and points the way to a completely different view of life in the light of where grace takes you.”

Growing With

Today in MC-1 at 10:15. Lori Gallegos and other volunteer leaders lead discussions based on the podcast/book *Growing With: Every Parents' Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family and Future*. No required reading.

Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, November 20 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at Imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.



Zion is a **Stephen Ministry Church!**

Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers, God Is the Cure-Giver. The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly

basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: 210-688-3090

*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.



NOVEMBER 12, 2023
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Worship that is pleasing to God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	A parable of the ten bridesmaids
Monday	Amos 5:18-24	What the Lord requires
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The coming of the Lord
Wednesday	Psalm 106:1-12	A confession of Israel's sins
Thursday	Isaiah 1:10-17	Justice is needed, not sacrifices
Friday	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	Treat everyone with justice
Saturday	Psalm 70	God is wonderful
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, we thank you for your call for justice and mercy that gives hope to our lives and to the generations to come through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed; and let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who shows mercy on the poor deliver you from harm. (Psalm 70:5)



NOVEMBER 12, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Canticle of the Turning



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:

- Why is care for those in need so important?
- What type of worship do you think pleases God? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Amos 5:18-24.

Amos' prophetic words are not addressed to those who are indifferent or have actively rejected faith in God. His message is for those who worship God. He uses words of caution filled with danger and accusation. The worshiping community becomes shaken out of complacency. What God sees and smells and hears in worship is not pleasing. Worship is offered without concern for the needs of the poor (justice) and the wellbeing of the community (righteousness). Worship that is pleasing to God includes the daily life activity of people that shows compassion and delights in healthy relationships. Worship promotes a faithful way of life that is itself a form of worship and praise to God. It is good to know that the power of God's justice is like a flood of water, a deluge, and God's righteousness is constant like a stream that never stops flowing.

Discuss: How does worship lead you to acts of compassion that serve the needs of others?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, may our worship life reflect your compassion for the needy and our need for strong and life-giving relationships through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others to enable them to have life-giving relationships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Matthew 25:1-13 is the parable of the foolish bridesmaids who did not have additional oil for their lamps. The light in their lamps could not shine. They were not ready. It is important to keep the faith alive and "burning" while waiting for Christ's return. We can do this by being ready to do God's work every day. Light a candle to symbolize the light of Jesus' love shining. While the candle is burning write a list of ways you can do God's work every day.

Pray: **Dear God, be with me each day. Help me to show love, fairness, and care for others through your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen**



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