

December 3, 2023 • First Sunday in Advent
9:00 and 11:30am



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.

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

Fling Wide the Door
setting by Robert Buckley Farlee

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.

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

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

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, Lord, Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
 Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM 80

Refrain

Michel Guimont

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your
face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. R.

May your hand be on the one you have chosen,
the one you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. R.

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: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, based on John 6:68 and Psalm 119:41–42; copyright © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Published by Augsburg Fortress. Printed in U.S.A.
Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for assembly use,
but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice.

GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37

Be Ready

Spark Children's Bible Page 346

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

Please be seated.

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now, O God

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
 2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
 3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
 Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
 Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
 Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
 Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Björnin, b. 1984
 Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune
 Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giasmusic.com. All rights reserved.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff shows a Cantor part (measures 1-4) and an Assembly part (measures 5-8) for the phrase "Hear our prayer, O Lord." The second staff is labeled "Spoken prayer petitions" and contains a melodic line with repeat signs at the beginning and end. The third staff shows another Cantor part (measures 1-4) and Assembly part (measures 5-8) for the phrase "Hear our prayer, O Lord." A bracket above the third staff indicates that the Cantor part is repeated "After each spoken petition".

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

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

9:00 *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* by Michael John Trotta Youth Choir

Translation: *O Come, O Come, the "I AM" that is with us, break the bond of the captive people!*

*Who mourn in exile derived of the Incarnation of the Father.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I AM" will be born for you.*

*O Come, King of all nations. Come to make all whole,
to save your servants from their separateness.*

*O Come thou Morningstar to shine on us by your coming.
Dispel the clouds of night, drive away the shadows of death.*

11:30 *Stay Awake, Be Ready!* by Christopher Walker Children's Choir

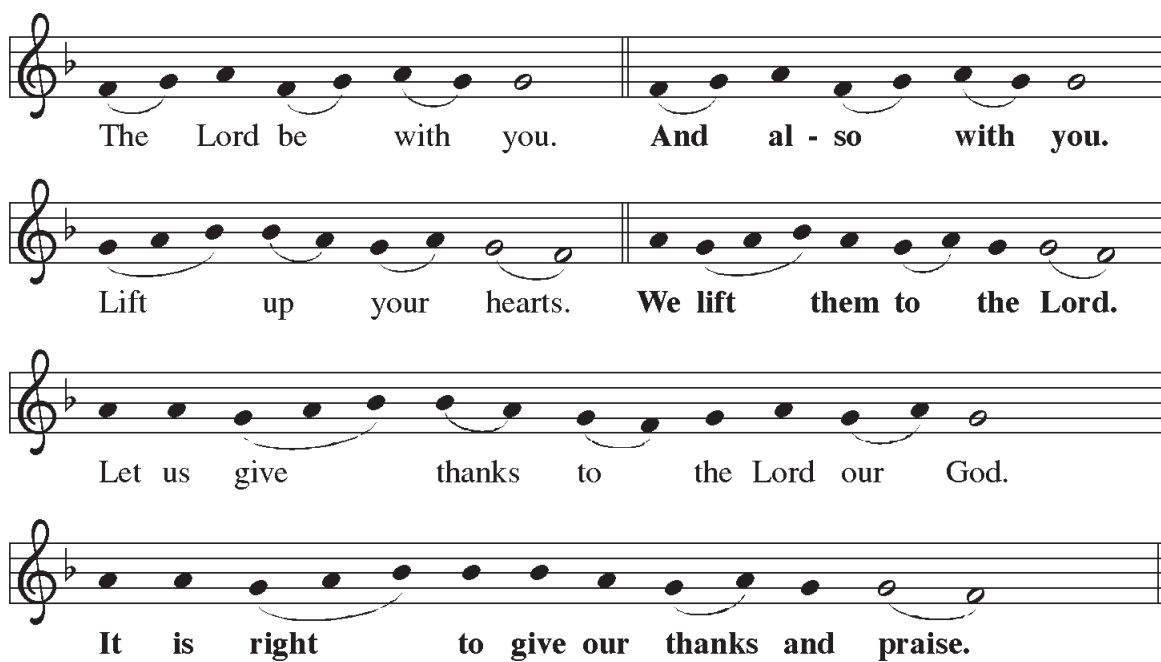
Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance,

we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first two staves have a double bar line after the first measure. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**" (Staff 1), "Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**" (Staff 2), "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." (Staff 3), and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." (Staff 4).

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:

2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav'n and earth ring forth your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na! Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na!

Text prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988, (alt.)
 Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Published by Augsburg Fortress. Printed in U.S.A.
 Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for assembly use.

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, 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

2 Assembly

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

Text prepared by the English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988
 Music: Aaron David Miller © 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Published by Augsburg Fortress. Printed in U.S.A.
 Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for assembly use,
 but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

Prepare Ye the Way by Penny Rodriguez

Youth Choir

11:30

Soon and Very Soon by Andrae Crouch

Children's Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake 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. Christ is near.

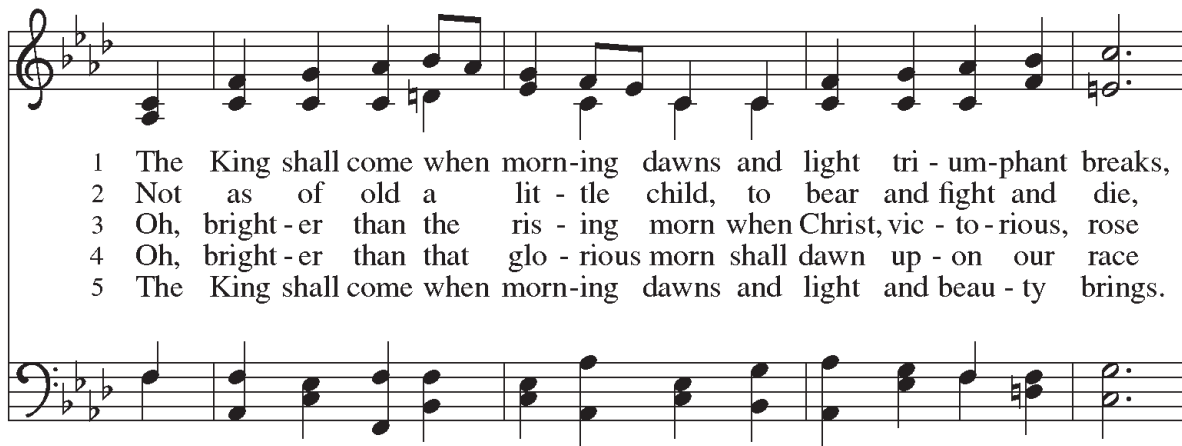
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

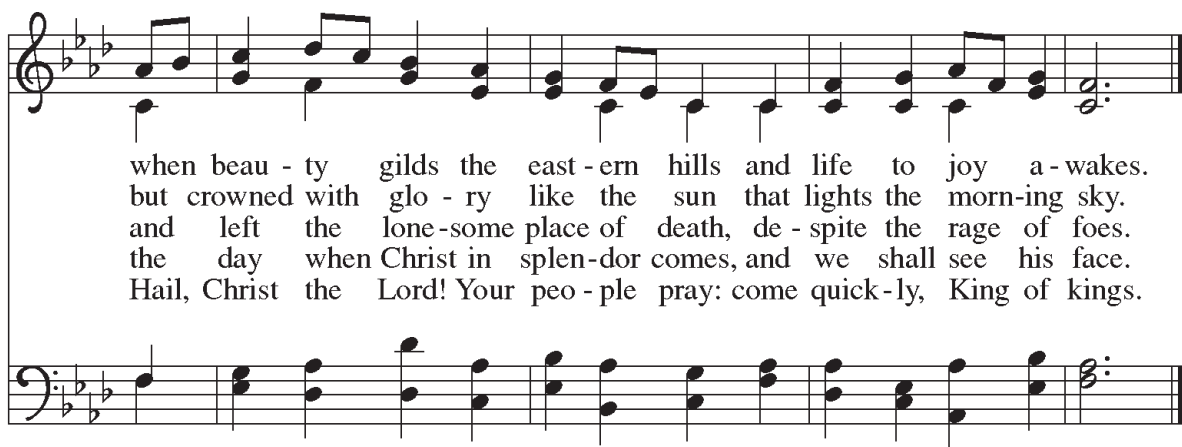
Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
setting by Wayne L. Wold

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.



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Sunday, December 3 - Advent 1

Tickets: <i>The Play that Goes Wrong</i>		Gazebo
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Intergenerational Advent Event	10:15	Details next page
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube
Installation of Pr. Kathi Johnson	3pm	Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, December 4

Game Group	1pm	Fellowship Hall
LMM Planning Mtg	6:30	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 5

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, December 6

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, December 7

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Dinner Out at Season 52	6:30	Details page 23
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
River City Ringers Concert	7pm	Sanctuary

Friday, December

Set-up for Christmas Tea	1-3pm	Family Life Center
--------------------------	-------	--------------------

Saturday, December 9

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
Set-up for Christmas Tea	9-11am	Family Life Center
Auditions: <i>Night on Broadway Revue</i>	2pm	Fellowship Hall
Women's Christmas Tea	3pm	Family Life Center

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Carolyn Thronson, Doris Enderlin
Susan Johns, Mary Ann Schmitt
Carrie Schmitzer, Sharon Solanik
Amy Swanson, Marcy Wilburn
Gina Williams

Lay Reader

9:00 Kevin Hoag
11:30 Shannon Rios

Cantor

Gavin Magee

Communion Servers

9:00 Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell
11:30 Shannon Rios, Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 David Umlang, Bev Rosel
Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell
Amy Swanson, Brad McClain
Linda Hansen
11:30 LeShea Clabough, Kevin McGee



Intergenerational Advent Event TODAY

10:15am in the Fellowship Hall
 All ages are invited to get ready for the Advent Season. Make an Advent wreath, Advent calendar, and luminaria, and reflect on the Advent values of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Refreshments available.

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

Sunday, December 10 - Advent 2

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class with Pastor Kathi	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Auditions: <i>Night on Broadway Revue</i>	2pm	Fellowship Hall

Celebration of New Ministry TODAY

Installation of The Rev. Dr. Kathi I. Johnson as Zion's Senior Pastor

The service begins at 3:00pm in the sanctuary. A reception follows in the Fellowship Hall.

Angel Tree Gifts for Children in Foster Care

Gifts Due Today, December 3

We are working with the Pathways agency to support foster families through the coming season. Please note the "early" return date. Gifts should not be wrapped, but attach the gift tag.

Women's Christmas Tea Saturday, December 9

The annual Christmas Tea is Saturday, Dec 9, from 3-5:00pm. Festivities take place in the Family Life Center.



Hostesses and guests may sign up in the gazebo today, before and after worship. There is no charge, but all seating is reserved in advance.

Guest speaker is Alicia Velasquez. The in-kind collection is women's new undergarments for CAM. Activities include a drawing for a quilt, a silent auction, and Fair Trade products on sale. Monetary donations benefit Texas Foundation of Hope, a community for people with developmental disabilities. Donations and sales are in cash or paper checks only.

Hostess set-up times are Dec 8 from 1-3:00pm, and Dec 9 from 9-11:00am. The event begins at 3:00pm on Saturday. Contact Mary Jo Goldenbaum if you have questions.

Zion Theatre Group presents



The **PLAY**
that goes
WRONG

January 5-7 & 12-14
ztg.booktix.com

Theatre seating tickets now available on-line (use QR or ZTGbooktix.com), and in the gazebo. Theatre seating is \$15 (\$10 child). Dinner show tickets are \$30 (\$20 child). Purchase dinner seating from Sammy, theatre@zionsa.org



Sunday Faith Formation Resumes Dec 10

Meet in Ministry Center classrooms.

Age or Grade	Room
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 Continue Dec 10

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 “reintroduces 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.”

STAFF CONTACT *Day Off*

Pastor Kathi Johnson *Monday*
kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Pastor Dan Heim *Friday*
dheim@ZionSA.org

Suzie Wyatt, *Thursday*
Administrator *afternoon*
swyatt@ZionSA.org

Rob Mikulski, *Monday*
Music Director
rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Sammy Mikulski, *Monday*
Theatre Director
theatre@ZionSA.org

2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead *President*
Chis Jones *Vice President*
Allen Cockrell *Treasurer*
Erica Macha *Secretary*
Carolyn Pfeiffer *At Large*
David Umlang *At Large*
Rachel Williams *At Large*
Pr. Kathi Johnson
Pr. Dan Heim

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@ZionSA.org



Website ZionSA.org



Facebook ZionSAa



Instagram @ZionSATx



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

COPYRIGHTS

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS008900.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © OneLicense.net. All rights reserved. License No. A-723584.

Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Game Group

December 4 and 18 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Algine Perry.

Dinner Out at Seasons 52 Restaurant

Thursday, December 7 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet this month at Seasons 52 Fresh Grill in the Alamo Quarry Market, 255 E. Basse. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by December 4 to Doris & Dave Newman; call the church office if you need their contact info.

Women of Zion

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

Women of Zion Events

- Tuesday December 12, WOZ Bible Study & More. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!



WOZ@zionsa.org

Diamond + Plus Christmas Luncheon December 14



Everyone age 75+ is invited to this annual event in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 10:00am for fellowship, entertainment and lunch. Watch your mailbox for your invitation, or contact Karen Umlang by Dec 5 at 210-426-5049 (call or text) or umlang@hotmail.com.

Handbell Concert at Zion December 7



Zion Zippers 55+ Fellowship

Monday, December 11

Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm on December 11 for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This month, the meat is provided; please bring a side dish or two to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too!

December entertainment is a Christmas sing-a-long led by Karen Zook. Come and join the fun!

MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday December 13
in MC Room 1

M 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@zionsa.org) to register, volunteer or get more info!



Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the right. Bring your own project to work on.

*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.



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, December 18 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.

Final Week to Sign Up

Food Bank Volunteer Day

LMM invites you to a volunteer event on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 1:30 to 4pm. We'll pack and sort food in the San Antonio Food Bank warehouse (5200 Old Hwy 90). This service event is open to all ages.

Contact Mark Laneman if you have questions, or use the QR to register.



v Bucks January 4

San Antonio LMM has reserved two sections of group seating in the Frost Bank Center. All are welcome to come cheer on our Spurs! Tickets are \$40 and \$55 - consider who'd like this for a Christmas gift.

Purchase deadline is Dec 21. Get your digital tickets with the QR here or fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranmen6



Advent Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Happy New Year! In less than a month, we'll begin 2024. But today, with the Advent season, we begin a new church year.

Advent is a season of waiting. A tradition of many Christians is to put out a nativity scene early in December, and then wait until Christmas Eve to place the Christ Child in the scene. Waiting to put Christ in our nativities helps us stay present to the Advent season, discovering the gifts it offers us. Advent can help us slow down, to pay attention (or keep watch, as Jesus says in today's Gospel reading). One focus of Advent is what new things God is up to in the world, in our families, friendships, and communities, in this congregation.

You might notice the new nativity scene we have put out here at Zion. We bought this set from the Rishmawi family of Bethlehem - the family who comes to Zion each year to sell their beautiful olive wood artwork. They are one of the oldest Christian families in the city of Bethlehem, and how appropriate for us to have a nativity scene from the very place where Jesus was born!

For now, in our nativity, we begin with Mary, Joseph, and some animals. Each week, we'll add more characters from the story. Each week, we can consider the questions: what new thing is God stirring up? and How can we be open to the works of God?

Auditions for March '24 Revue

Auditions for the Zion Theatre Group's production of "A Night on Broadway" are December 9 or 10 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone auditioning needs to prepare 1-2 minutes of a musical theater song that best shows your vocal abilities. Bring sheet music or a backup track to sing with. You will also be learning a dance combination as a part of the audition. Performance dates are March 1-3 and 8-10.



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

DECEMBER 3, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	When the Son of Man appears
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:13-16	A call to holy living
Thursday	Psalms 147:7-11	Praise for God's care
Friday	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	The Thessalonians' faith
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Restore us. O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of awesome power, give us hearts filled with hope and gladness as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for food and drink that gives us strength for the day and hope for the future through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord's face shine on you with hope through Christ Jesus.



DECEMBER 3, 2023

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:

- As you look to the future, what are some of your hopes?
- God came to us in the form of baby Jesus. How did this bring us hope?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 64:1-9.

Advent is a season of hope, that is, waiting and longing for what is not yet present. It is more than a season; it is a way of life for God's people. This is dramatically seen in Isaiah 64. We want the sense of awe to witness the presence of God that descends from the heavens above. It is as grand as mountains quaking and nations trembling. The divide is vast that separates us from the righteousness and power of God because of our brokenness, our sin. Our hope is not in our goodness but in the everlasting love of God who remembers us like a parent caring for a child. In Jesus we see our hope in God realized. As our God descends in the form of a babe, we hope and believe God has not forgotten us or left us to our own self-destructive ways. We are left in awe at the love and goodness of God that we not only see in Bethlehem, but also at the end of time when we witness *"the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory"* (Mark 13:26). Hope with a sense of awe is healthy for daily life and for our faith in God in Christ.

Discuss: What do you hope for during this Advent season as we await Christ's coming?

Pray: **Almighty God, your glory is seen in all that you do; give us eyes to see the hope we are given through the coming of Jesus as a baby and as the Son of Man at the end of time. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you encourage someone to live with hope in the future?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Make an Advent wreath and decorate it with evergreens. Place four candles on the wreath. Place the wreath on a counter or table where you can gather each week during Advent to light the candles. The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week, we light one candle, the candle of hope. Think or talk about what hope you imagine when you read Psalm 80:3: *"Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved."* Light the first candle of hope and say: ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*** (John 1:5)



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