

December 10, 2023 • Second Sunday in Advent  
Service of Lessons and Carols  
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](mailto:zion@zionsa.org)

# GATHERING

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

PRELUDE	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland</i> <i>(Savior of the Nations, Come)</i> setting by Dietrich Buxtehude	
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## ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Services of Lessons and Carols began in England late in the 19th Century. Prior to this, carols were mostly secular songs and were sung in people's homes around Christmas time. Beginning in 1875, church musicians and clergy in England began to introduce carols into worship services, and in 1880, a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve in Truro Cathedral (in southwest England).

Our tradition at Zion is to hold a Service of Lessons and Carols on the First Sunday of Christmas, which we will do this year on December 31. This year, however, we decided also to include Advent Lessons and Carols to our celebration of this season. We've included here five lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures - lessons which show us God's promise of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Our final lesson, from Luke, is the story of Mary receiving the news that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

In this service, sometimes we sing, sometimes we listen. Through the alternating readings and music, the grace of God shines forth for us.

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

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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## 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

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Shiloh Love

FIRST READING: GENESIS 3:1-15  
Adam and Eve rebel against God.

Spark Children's Bible Page 14

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. <sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the Lord GOD walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord GOD among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The Lord GOD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures, upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair*  
by Hal Hopson

Chancel Choir

SECOND READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*  
by Paul Manz

Chancel Choir

### THIRD READING: BARUCH 4:36-5:9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.

<sup>36</sup>Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. <sup>37</sup>Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. <sup>1</sup>Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. <sup>2</sup>Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; <sup>3</sup>for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. <sup>4</sup>For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." <sup>5</sup>Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. <sup>6</sup>For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. <sup>7</sup>For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. <sup>9</sup>For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

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



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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FOURTH READING: MICAH 5:2-5a

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

Spark Bible Page 194

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

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

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

FIFTH READING: ISAIAH 11:1-9

The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One. Spark Bible Page 172

<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.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*  
arranged by Hugo Distler

Chancel Choir

SIXTH READING: LUKE 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Spark Bible Page 196

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Ave Generosa*

Chancel Choir

music by Ola Gjeilo, text by Hildegard von Bingen

Translation: *Hail, noble one. A glorious and untouched girl.  
You pupil of chastity. You are the material of holiness  
That pleased God.*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## 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 is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line shows a rest for the first two measures, followed by the Cantor's part for the next two measures, and the Assembly's part for the final two measures. The lyrics "Hear our prayer, O Lord." are written below each of these three parts. The second line is labeled "Spoken prayer petitions" and contains a melodic line with a repeat sign at the beginning and end. The third line is labeled "After each spoken petition" and shows the Cantor and Assembly parts again, with the same lyrics "Hear our prayer, O Lord." below each part.

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](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	<i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i> setting by Michael Larkin	
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*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.**

[Next page](#)



## GREAT THANKSGIVING HYMN

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.

### Prayer Reflection

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:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.)  
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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  
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1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

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*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. 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.**

Section end

# 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.**

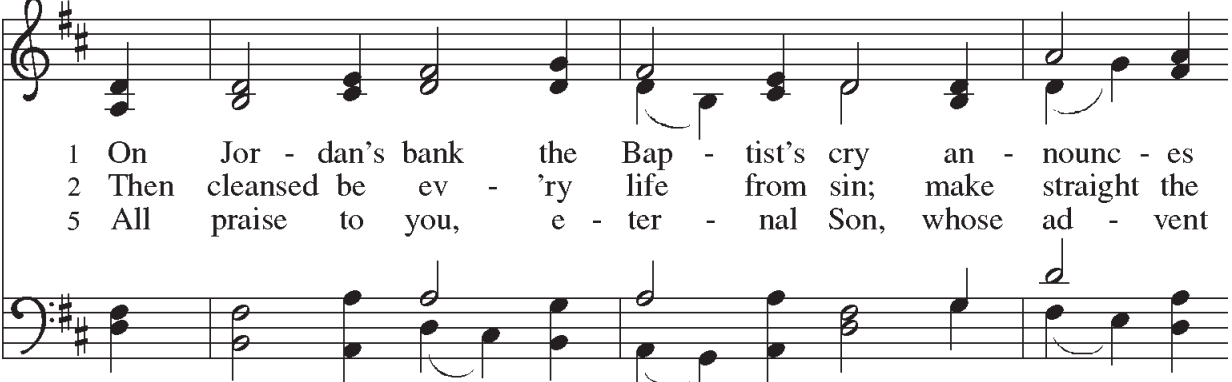
## POSTLUDE

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661*

by J.S. Bach

## AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

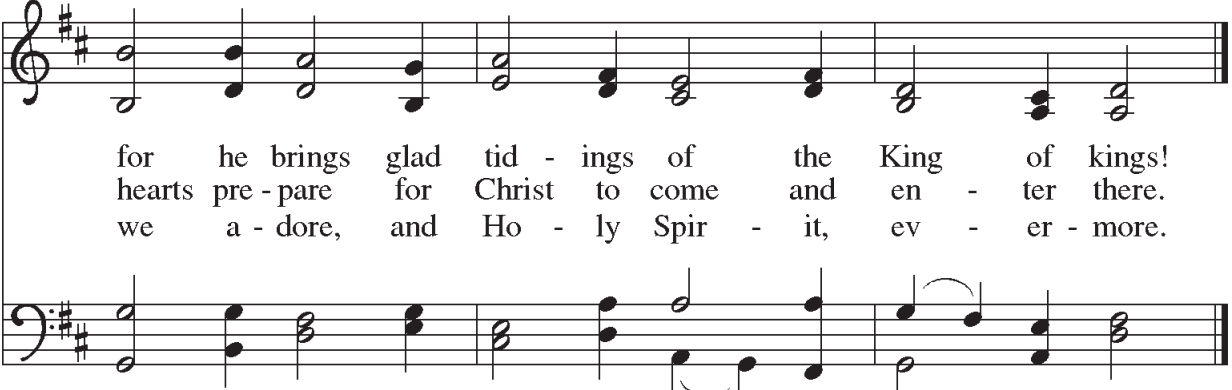
*Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

**THIS  
WEEK  
AT  
ZION**



Scan QR code for  
this month's  
calendar

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**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

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**Monday, December 11**

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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**Tuesday, December 12**

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study & More	10am	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

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**Wednesday, December 13**

MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers	9:30	Ministry Center 1
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Sanctuary
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

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**Thursday, December 14**

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Diamond+Plus Christmas Luncheon	10am	Fellowship Hall
Youth Night	6:30	Ministry Center
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC-1

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**Saturday, December 16**

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
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**Sunday, December 17**

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

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**Worship Support**

**Altar Guild**

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

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**Lay Readers**

Anna Schulte  
Jeff Williams  
Karen Umlang  
Eileen Spehr  
Pastor Kathi Johnson  
Carolyn Pfeiffer  
Mike DeHart  
Mark Bierschenk

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**Communion Servers**

9:00 Melanie Murray, Bonnie Harrell  
11:30 Laura Knoll, LeShea Clabough

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**Livestream**

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

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**Sound**

Scott VanDoren

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**Ushers**

9:00 David Umlang, Bev Rosel  
Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell  
Amy Swanson, Brad McClain  
Linda Hansen  
11:30 Kim & Mike DeHart  
Joanna & Mel Arviso



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## Sunday Faith Formation for Children and Youth 10:15

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

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## Advent and Christmas Services

December 13 and 20

1pm and 6:30pm (Main Sanctuary)

Advent Midweek Worship: Pause,  
Prepare, Ponder

December 24

- *Morning Advent* 4 worship service  
at 10am (Main Sanctuary)

- *Christmas Eve* worship services at  
3pm, 5pm, 7pm (Main Sanctuary -  
livestream at 5pm)

December 31

Christmas Lessons and Carols - one  
worship service at 10am (Main  
Sanctuary)

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## Adult Sunday Morning Classes

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.”

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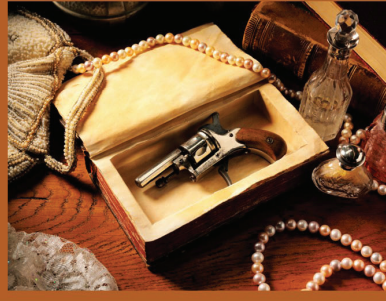
## Zion Zippers 55+ Fellowship

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!

Zion Theatre Group presents



The **PLAY**  
that goes  
**WRONG**

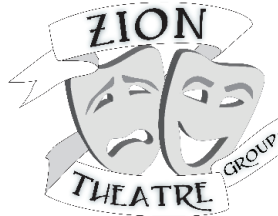
January 5-7 & 12-14

Theatre seating tickets now available online (use QR or [ZTG.booktix.net](http://ZTG.booktix.net)), 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](mailto:theatre@zionsa.org)



**TODAY are Auditions for March '24 Revue**

Audition for the Zion Theatre Group's production of "A Night on Broadway" is today 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 back-up 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.



**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](mailto: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](http://WOZ@zionsa.org)

**STAFF CONTACT**

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

**2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Bud Halstead	<i>President</i>
Chis Jones	<i>Vice President</i>
Allen Cockrell	<i>Treasurer</i>
Erica Macha	<i>Secretary</i>
Carolyn Pfeiffer	<i>At Large</i>
David Umlang	<i>At Large</i>
Rachel Williams	<i>At Large</i>
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 zionsa



Instagram @zionsatx



9944 Leslie Road, 78254

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## Nativity Story December 17

In the Prayer Garden

Next Sunday, all are welcome to gather at the Zion Prayer Garden (between Church 1 and the Cemetery) at 3:00pm for hot chocolate, roasting marshmallows on a fire pit, and a reading/impromptu pop-up presentation of the Nativity story.

*Optional:* Come dressed as a character from the story or choose from costumes supplied.

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## Game Group

December 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.

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## MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday December 13 in MC Room 1



Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) supports moms by building communi-

ty 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!



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## Youth Night December 14

Middle & High School Dinner and Fellowship  
6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

Every other Thursday, Zion's high school and middle school youth meet to enhance their impact on their community, collectively – with service projects, Bible discussion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and something else fun – to build a community on mission. \$4 is the suggested offering for dinner.

Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have enough food and supplies!



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### Save the Date

June 17-21 and  
June 24-28

Two unique, stand-alone weeks of  
Camp Hope! Open

to those entering K-7th grades in Fall 2024. Camp Hope is a youth-run, adult-mentored day camp that builds Christian leaders through encounters with the Bible, Art, STEM, Drama, Worship and more. Youth entering 6th-7th grade (Disciple Campers) are challenged with off-site service projects at our mission partner Nichols Elementary School that prepare them to serve as future camp leaders. Registration info to come in January.

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## Youth Camp Hope Staff Applications

Older youth, apply now for volunteer support staff (current 7th-8th graders) or paid staff positions (current high schoolers). Apply via the QR. Interviews will begin over Winter Break. Staff can work one week or both.



## 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.



## LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION®

AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH • SAN ANTONIO

### 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](mailto:imm@zionsa.org) if you need more details.



### 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](http://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Lutheranmen6)

### Quilting for LWR Resumes January 4\*

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 9:30am

Want to try something new for the upcoming year? Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! If you DO sew, join in to help create simple quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The durable quilts we make are sent all over the world to be used as bedding, room dividers, and shelter. If you can't make it to the quilting meetings, quilt tops can be sewn at home at your convenience. Fabric is provided. Contact Diane Stewart for details.

Quilters will meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning January 4.

*For more information on LWR quilting, go to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and click on "quilts." Learn how a quilt can make a difference in someone's life.*

## Advent Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

A couple more pieces have joined our nativity scene this week: a shepherd and sheep. The Prince of Peace wasn't born in a big palace, surrounded by riches. The presence of animals in our nativity reminds us that Christ was born humbly, in a stable.

In present-day Bethlehem we find the Church of the Nativity, a 6th Century basilica which has been much-modified in the years since it was built. To reach the Grotto of the Nativity, you descend stone steps which have been worn down by centuries of pilgrims visiting the site believed to be the birthplace of Jesus. In this underground grotto, we realize that Jesus was quite possibly born in a cave. Humble beginnings, indeed.

The presence of shepherds in our nativity underscores Christ's humble beginnings, for shepherds were considered the lowest of the low on the social ladder. That God would send angels to shepherds in order to announce the birth of Jesus is a sign of God's love for all.

- Pr. Kathi

## 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.

DECEMBER 10, 2023  
SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God brings peace and forgiveness.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 1:1-8</b>	<b>The beginning of the good news</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 40:1-11</b>	<b>Comfort my people</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2 Peter 3:8-15a</b>	<b>Promise of the Lord's coming</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Matthew 5:9</b>	<b>Blessed are the peacemakers</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 29</b>	<b>The voice of God in a storm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 52:7-10</b>	<b>Let Zion rejoice</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</b>	<b>A prayer for God's peace</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 1:6-8, 19-28</b>	<b>John's witness to the light</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.*

**Isaiah 40:1-2 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Almighty God, help us to rely on you above all things that our lives may find rest and peace through Christ Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this food; we pray for a fair distribution of the fruit of the earth that all may have enough to eat. In Jesus' name, amen.

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

May the steadfast love and faithfulness of God give you peace. (Psalm 85:10)



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DECEMBER 10, 2023

## HYMN OF THE WEEK



*He Came Down*

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:

- Think or talk about a time when you experienced peace.
- When have you felt God's peace in your life?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 1:1-8.

The first line in Mark, *"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,"* serves as a title for the entire gospel writing. That title and that announcement of good news is the source of all the peace we can want. Mark's Gospel does not present a peace that is simply life without struggles. The peace of God that comes with the good news of Jesus involves struggle, cleansing, and letting go of one's own innocence or purity. The peace that Jesus brings, and John the Baptist introduces, involves a *"repentance for the forgiveness of sins"* (v. 4). The peace that Jesus brings—and continues to bring throughout our lives—is the freeing power to let go of an understanding of being able to make it on one's own or of being better than others. Worship services often begin with statements of confession and forgiveness. This offers a peace where we need not hide from the hurts and brokenness of our lives and world. It is the peace that rests on the goodness of God in Christ for us and for all.

*Discuss:* How does confession and forgiveness give you peace?

*Pray:* **God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we thank you for coming to us again and again that we may know your forgiving power and have peace through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 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 extend the peace of God to someone?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The scripture readings during Advent point to Jesus. This week we light two candles on the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of peace. Think or talk about how the words of Psalm 85, a prayer for restoration, bring us peace: *"Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts."* Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace 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](http://www.milestonesministry.org)