

November 24, 2024 • Sunday of Giving Thanks
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. The break room, on the left side of the hallway, provides a quiet space for nursing.

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		
9:00	<i>We Gather Together</i> arranged by Jason Krug	Handbells
11:30	<i>We Praise You, O God</i> setting by Dale Wood	Sandy Musk, Organist

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

We worship today in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

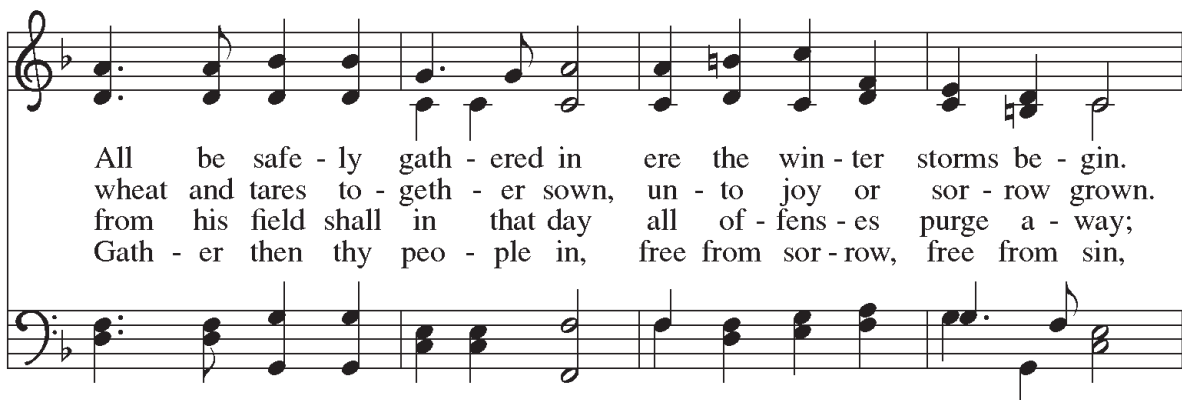
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

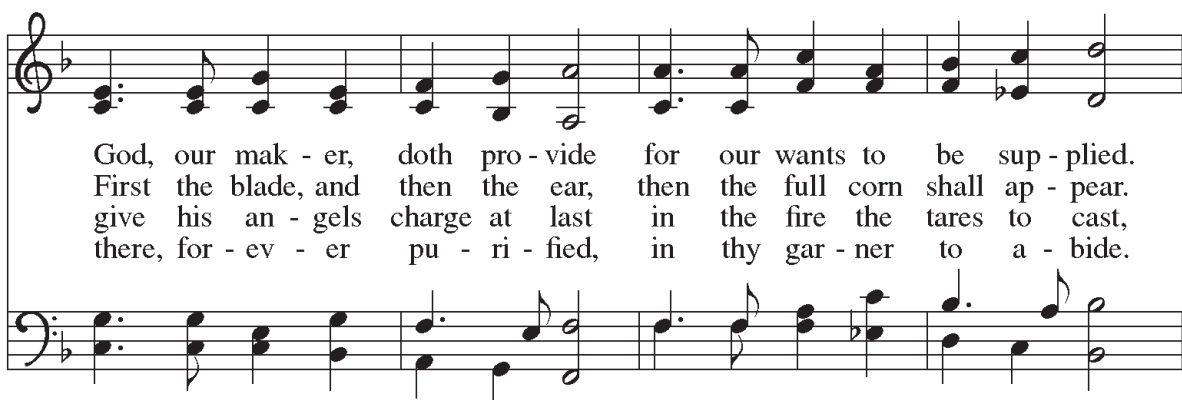
Amen.



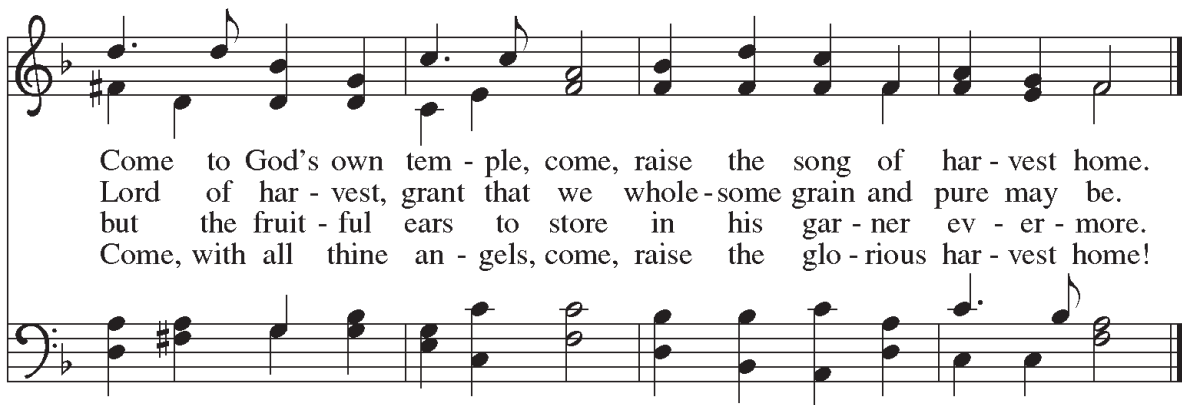
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
 Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Singing time

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:21-27

²¹ Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! ²² Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. ²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. ²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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

PSALM 126

The cantor sings the refrain once to begin, followed by the assembly. The assembly then sings the refrain when indicated by R̄.

Refrain

Michel Guimont

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

When the LORD delivered Zion from
bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. R̄.

The heathens themselves said: "What
marvels
the LORD worked for them!"
What marvels the LORD worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. R̄.

Deliver us, O LORD, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. R̄.

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing;
they come back, they come back, full of
song,
carrying their sheaves. R̄.

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

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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 6:25-33

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

*Spark Children's Bible Story
Do Not Worry, page 276*

[Jesus said,] ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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

Please be seated.

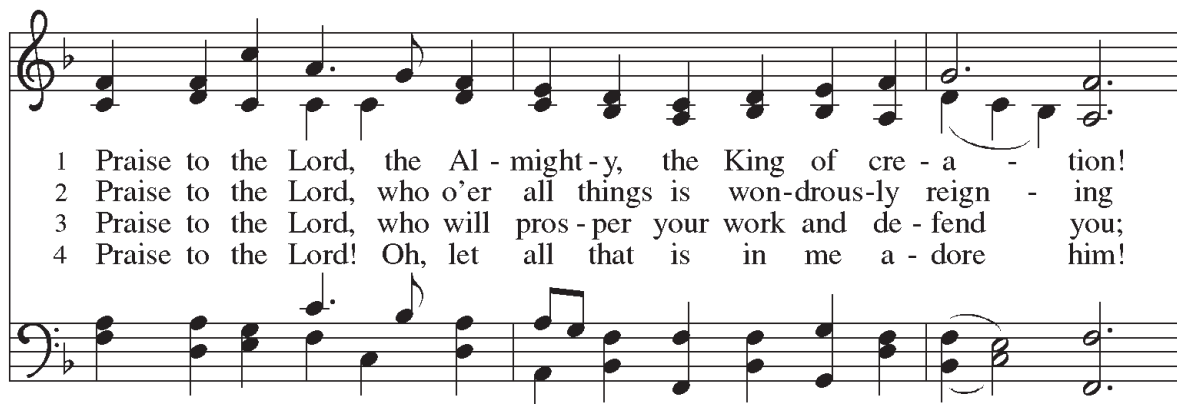
SERMON

Pastor Al Jensen

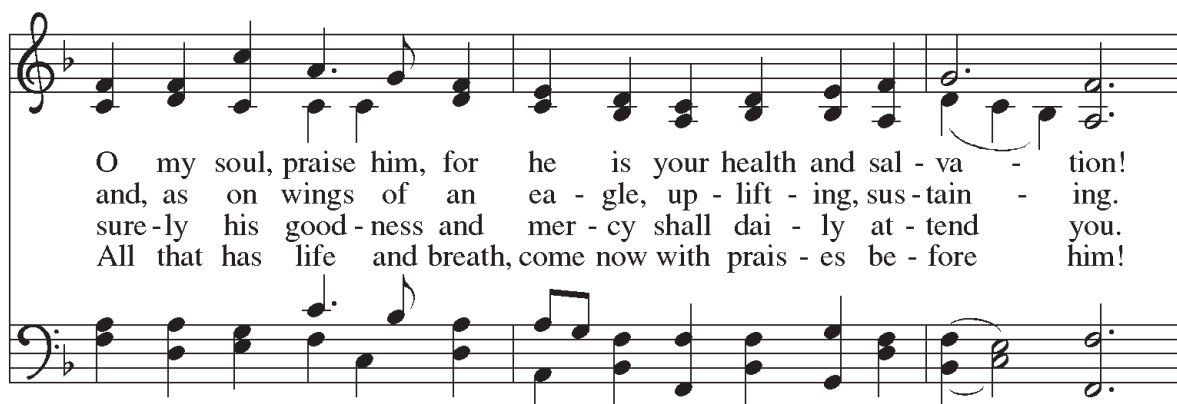
Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

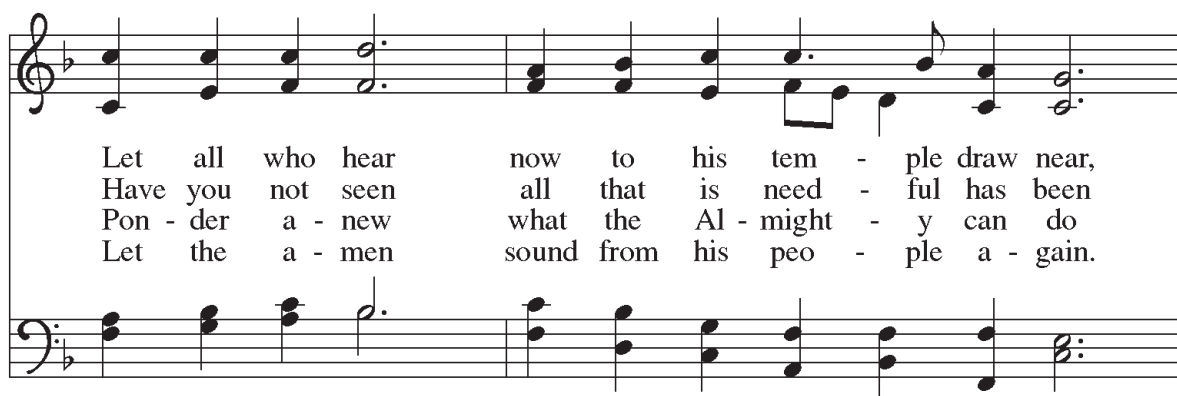
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



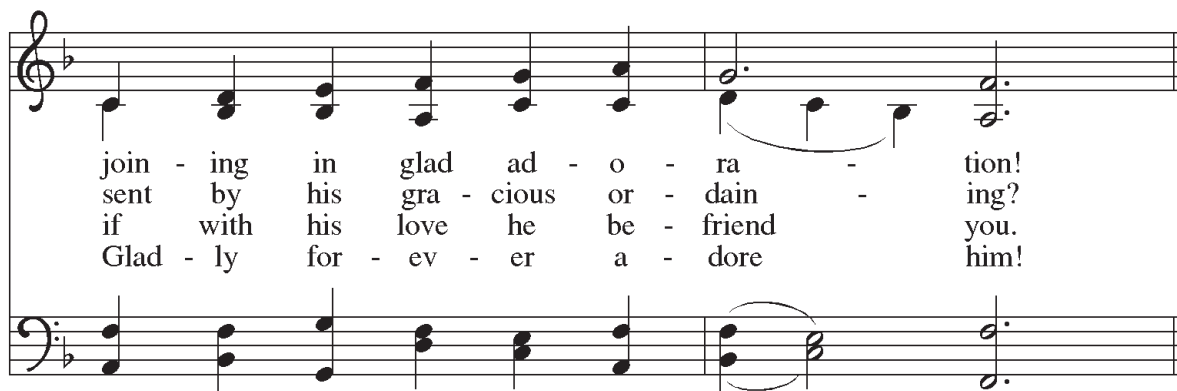
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; 1st Edition: Wraymouth, 1827-1878. Alt.
Music: LORE DEN HERREN, *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Straßburg, 1665

APOSTLES' CREED COMPILED WITH KATHARINE

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 COMPILED WITH KATHARINE

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

Each petition ends: Merciful God, Response: Receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Additional announcements and a schedule for the week are on the back pages of this bulletin.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

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 may place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel (near the sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table for Holy Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

9:00

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
arranged by Linda Scholes

Handbells

11:30

We Gather Together
setting by Robin Rokey

Sandy Musk,
Organist

Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.

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.

[Next page](#)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, ✠ your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church,
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

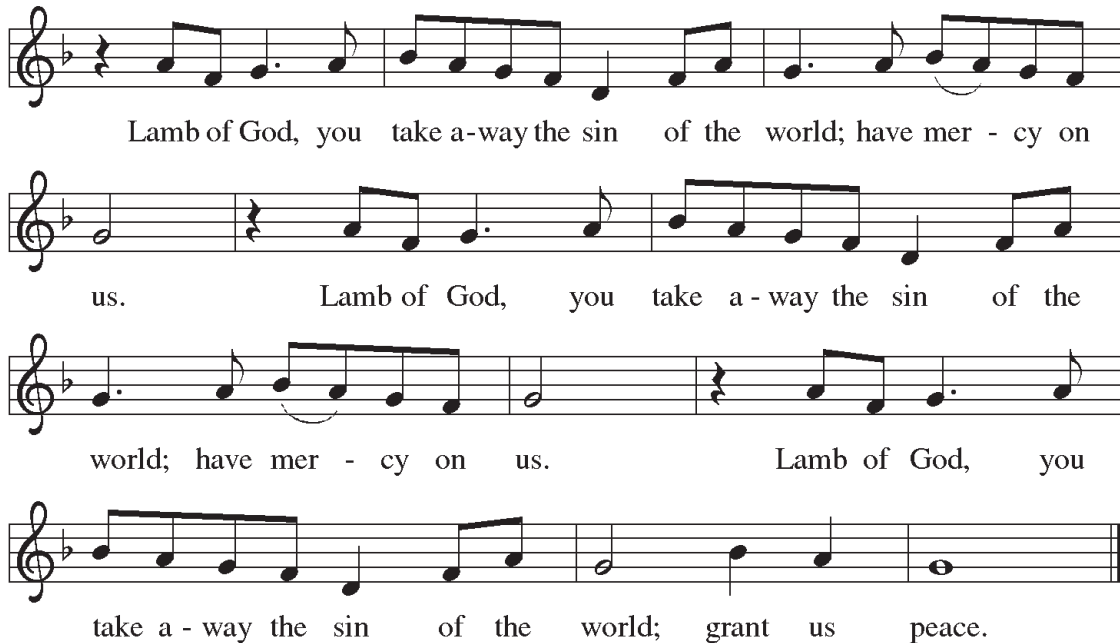
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. 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 tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
arranged by Judy Endean

Handbells

COMMUNION HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE	<i>Nun Danket</i> by Van Denman Thompson	Sandy Musk, Organist
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Available for Prayer

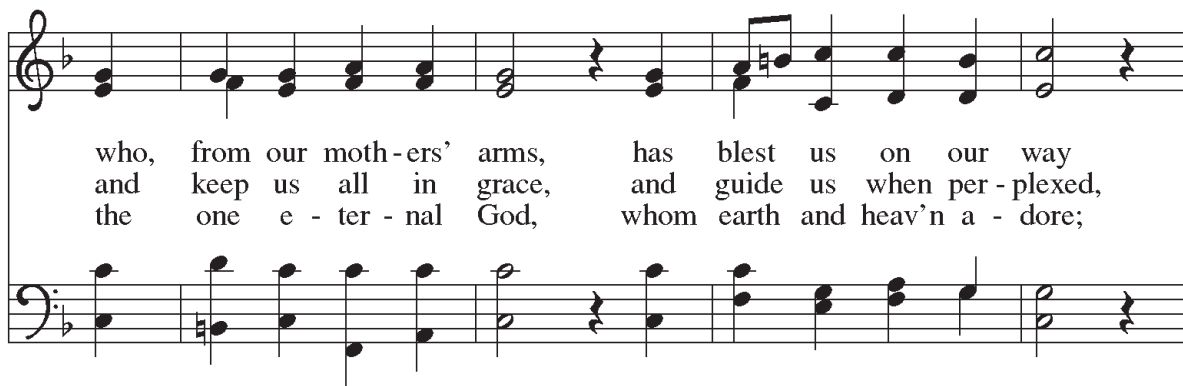
Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.



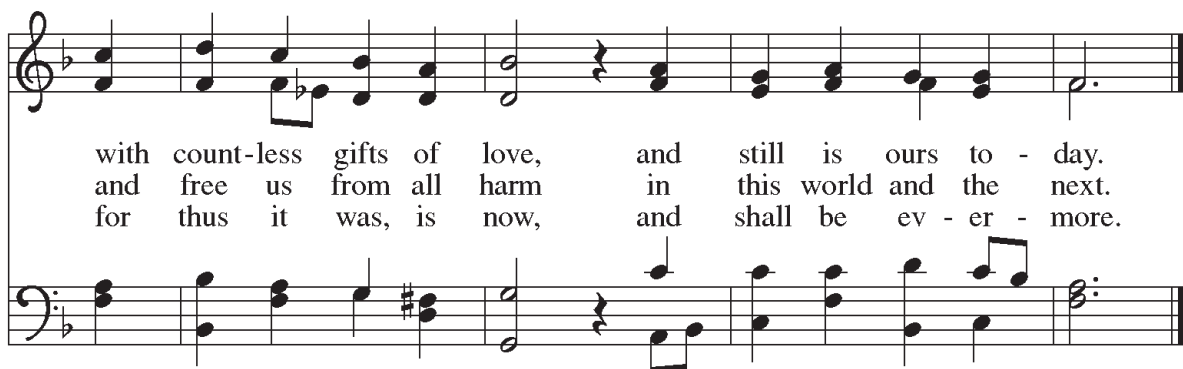
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Doris Enderlin, Susan Johns
Carrie Schmitzer, Amy Swanson
Gina Williams

Lay Reader

9:00 Mary Mora
11:30 LeShea Clabough

Cantor

Kirby Olson

Communion Servers

9:00 Jenn & Kevin Kretzschmar
11:30 Max Knoll
Jeff Williams

Livestream

David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 Rachel Williams
Carmen Nickle
Jan & Bill Pinkerton
Karen Stoldt
Llynniece Swanston
11:30 LeShea Clabough & Kevin M^cGee
Paul Spehr
Laura Walsh

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, November 24

Bethlehem Christian Olive Wood Carvings Conference Room

Associate Pastor Candidate Al Jensen preaches at both services

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Casual Meet & Greet with Pr. Al Jensen 10-11am Gazebo
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube
Candidate Meet & Greet, Q&A 4pm Sanctuary

Monday, November 25

Bunco 1pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 26

Exercise Group 9am Church 2
Staff Meeting 11am Break Room
Handbells 6:30 Sanctuary Balcony
Warriors Anonymous 7pm Church 2

Wednesday, November 27

Weight Watchers Mtg 9:30 Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting 7pm FLC 101
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 7pm FLC 202

Thursday, November 28

Thanksgiving Day - Campus Closed

Friday, November 29

Campus Closed

Saturday, November 30

Weight Watchers Meeting 7:30am Church 2

Sunday, December 1

Crafty Bunch Christmas Craft Sale before & after worship in Gazebo

WELCA Christmas Tea Sign-up in Gazebo - details page 20

Worship in person 9am Sanctuary
Intergenerational Advent Event 10:15 FH
Worship in person and online 11:30 Sanctuary & YouTube

Meet the Pastoral Candidate

TODAY November 24

Pastor Al Jensen will preach at 9:00 and 11:30 today, with an informal meet-and-greet between services in the gazebo. At 4:00pm today is a formal meeting with the congregation, including a Q & A time, in the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting December 8

Vote on Pastoral Candidate Rev. Al Jensen

Come to the sanctuary at 10:15 on Sunday, December 8. The only agenda item is voting to extend a Pastoral Call for Pastor of Congregational Care to Pastor Jensen.



Angel Tree Christmas Gifts for Foster Children



Zion is again partnering with Pathways Youth & Family Services to collect gifts for children in their foster care system. Children range in ages from infants through teens. Your gifts will delight these children, and alleviate some of the work of their foster parents. If you can, pick a gift suggestion tag from the boards in the narthex or gazebo, and return your tagged, UNWRAPPED gift to the church by December 8.



Dinner Out at Renzo's

Thursday, December 5 at 6:30pm

The Dinner Out group will get together at Renzo's Trattoria & Pizzeria, 4323 N Loop 1604 W, Suite 112 (next to Living Spaces). Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm.

RSVP by December 1 to Doris or Dave Newman. Call the church office if you need their contact information.

STAFF CONTACT

Day Off

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Monday

Senior Pastor

kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Pastor Dan Heim

Friday

Pastor, Youth & Family

dheim@ZionSA.org

Pastor Eileen Spehr

Visitation Pastor

visitation@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

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead

President

Allen Cockrell

Treasurer

Chris Jones

Vice President

Erica Macha

Secretary

David Umlang

At Large

Rachel Williams

At Large

Shiloh Love

At Large

Pr. Kathi Johnson

Senior Pastor

Pr. Dan Heim

Pastor

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

SUBSCRIBE TO

- Weekly Z-Mail
- Prayer Chain

For secure subscription info, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org

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Bethlehem Families Olive Wood Carvings

TODAY November 24 in the Conference Room

Zion will again have an opportunity to view products and creations in wood crafted by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land. The tradition of Olive wood carvings in the Holy Land has been handed down from father



to son since the 12th century. You can preview these

beautiful items at www.bethlehem-art.com or use the QR code.



“We call on our churches worldwide to recognize that the very presence of the Christian communities in the Holy Land is threatened by the severity of the present conflict and by the economic devastation the conflict has caused. When the Mother Church is endangered, the entire Churches must be involved”.

The Christian Bishops of Jerusalem

**Christmas
Craft
Sale**

**Sunday, December 1
Hosted by the Crafty Bunch**

The Crafty Bunch has been working all year on artistic “treats” you can use for gifts and decoration. The sale is open from 8am until 12:30. Come to the gazebo early for the best selection!

Proceeds from this annual event benefit projects around Zion, as needs arise.

Zion Bunco Group

4th Monday, November 25 at 1:00pm

Zion Bunco Group will meet on the fourth Monday for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. Meet at 1:00, the Fellowship Hall. For info contact Shirley Homeier-Mc-Brayer through the church office.

Sign Up Next Sunday for
Women's Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 14



Women and girls of all ages are invited to the annual WELCA Christmas Tea, scheduled for Saturday, December 14, from 3-5:00pm. Festivities take place in the Family Life Center.

Sign-up days* for both hostesses and guests are Sundays, December 1 and December 8, in the gazebo. Since all seats are reserved, please make sure you sign up by December 8.

There is no cost for this event, but you are asked to bring new bras or undergarments for donation to CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry). If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Goldenbaum or the church office.

* *Contact Mary Jo to sign up during the week.*

Weekday Bible Study Series: Book of Mark
Thursday, December 5 in MC Room 1

Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr. Come to Ministry Center Room 1 at 9:30am. Future topics will be announced.



**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 LeShea Clabough, our Stephen Ministry Leader. Get her contact information from the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.



*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.



<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/campaign/C-YTT8>
General Fund, updated 6/18/24

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship **Monday, December 9 at 6:00pm**

Zion Zippers meet on the second Monday of each month for a potluck dinner, beginning at 6pm. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please bring a dish or two to share with your Zipper friends. Bring your own plate and utensils if you can, and invite a friend, too!

After dinner, John Botter will provide some musical entertainment. Come join the merriment! Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

D.I.Y. Nativity **Sunday afternoon, December 15**

Please join us on December 15 at 3:00 for a fun Do-It-Yourself Nativity hosted by the Children's Choir. Bring the story to life by becoming the characters, portraying the animals, reading scripture, and singing the beloved carols!

This experience is open to all ages and abilities. The D.I.Y. Nativity will take place in the sanctuary. We will enjoy refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the performance.

We Want to Hear Your Story

The Capital Campaign Committee is creating a Generosity Booklet which has stories of generosity written by Zion's members. Please respond to one of these prompts given below, writing one to three paragraphs.

- 1. Why is the ministry of Zion Lutheran Church important to you or to your family?**
- 2. Who taught you the concept of generosity and how did they teach you?**
- 3. What was the most generous act you ever witnessed?**

Please send your responses and a photo of yourself to Kim DeHart by December 15, zionsgenerosity@gmail.com.

Women of Zion Events

WOZ Bible Study & More

Second Tuesday December 10 at 10:00am

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited! Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.



WOZ@zionsa.org

Leaders Being Sought

WOZ is seeking one or two women to take over the leadership of Zion's active group. The current co-presidents, Mary Jo Goldenbaum and Linnell Brewton, have served for five years, and are ready to step down at the end of this year. All other members of the board will remain, working together with the new leader(s). Please contact any current board member if you are interested in this position.

2024 Women of Zion Board

Co-Presidents	Mary Jo Goldenbaum and Linnell Brewton
Vice President	Diane Stewart
Secretary	Carolyn Pfeiffer
Treasurer	Jill Nunneley
Member-at-Large	Rhonda Knisley



Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, December 16 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at El Chaparral Restaurant, 15103 Bandera Rd in Helotes, 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.

Game Group

Monday, December 2 & 16 at 12:30pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Contact Algine Perry through the church office if you have questions.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief Thursday, December 5 at 9:30am

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall, on the first, third and fifth Thursdays. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

November 24, 2024
Sunday of Giving Thanks



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 18:33-37	Jesus, the king of truth
Monday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	The time of judgment
Tuesday	Revelation 1:4b-8	Jesus reigns
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:11-16	The good fight of faith
Thursday	Hebrews 1:1-4	God has spoken by his Son
Friday	Colossians 2:6-15	Fullness of life in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 93	The majesty of God's reign
Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	Coming of the Son of Man

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. **Revelation 1:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Ever-living God, may all people know of your love, power, and glory that brings healing and new life through Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who have established the world and all that is in it, we thank you for giving us this meal, a sign of your love for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of heaven and earth bless you to know Christ's reign.



November 24, 2024

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:

- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How is Jesus, as “*ruler of the kings of the earth*” (Revelation 1:5), different from other rulers?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Revelation 1:4b-8.

This scripture writing celebrates what glory and power really look like. The Book of Revelation delights in the God who always is, always was, and always will be. God is not some rumored supreme power who intimidates and destroys. Unlike earthly powers that come and go, it is the reign of Jesus Christ that bestows life, love, and joy. It is not the power meant for a few at the expense of many. It is a reign filled with a whole kingdom of priests, meaning all of us, who serve God with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving without end. It is a reign that lifts all God’s people to share in this power and give glory to God. This Jesus, the one who died as the faithful *witness* (also translated as “martyr”) is coming and is here now to love us and free us from the bondage of all other rulers of the earth. This Jesus, the slain lamb, has already arrived in worship, in Holy Communion, and in a whole series of “Amens” that we shout because in Christ we are turning to see God’s glory .

Discuss: Where and how do you see the reign of Christ in the world today?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, give us hearts and voices that give you praise as the only one who has the power to be with us always with love and hope through Jesus Christ. 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 help others experience the power of God in the world?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent. Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. Many different types of Advent calendars can now be found in stores and online. Advent wreaths are another tradition. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider using a calendar or wreath this year as part of your faith journey in your home and gifting them to family and friends as well.



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