

December 8, 2024 • Second 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. 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.

ADVENT

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

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

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
setting by Paul Manz

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 29. Continuing a tradition we began last year, we've added a service of Advent Lessons and Carols to our celebration of this season. There are four lessons from the Hebrew Scriptures - lessons which show us God's promise of reconciliation through Jesus Christ, plus a reading from Baruch (found in the Apocryphal writings). 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

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Lord who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us come before God in confession.

We keep silence for reflection.

To you, O God,

we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved ones, God will lead us with joy in the light of his glory, with the righteousness that comes from him. In mercy, God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Section End

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; in *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÅG FOR 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.

KYRIE

Cantor All
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor All
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Cantor All
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Section End

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

Children may come forward for the Children's Chat while the rest of the congregation is seated.

FIRST READING GENESIS 3:1-15

¹Now 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'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but 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.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They 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. ⁹But the Lord GOD called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord GOD said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵I 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.**

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

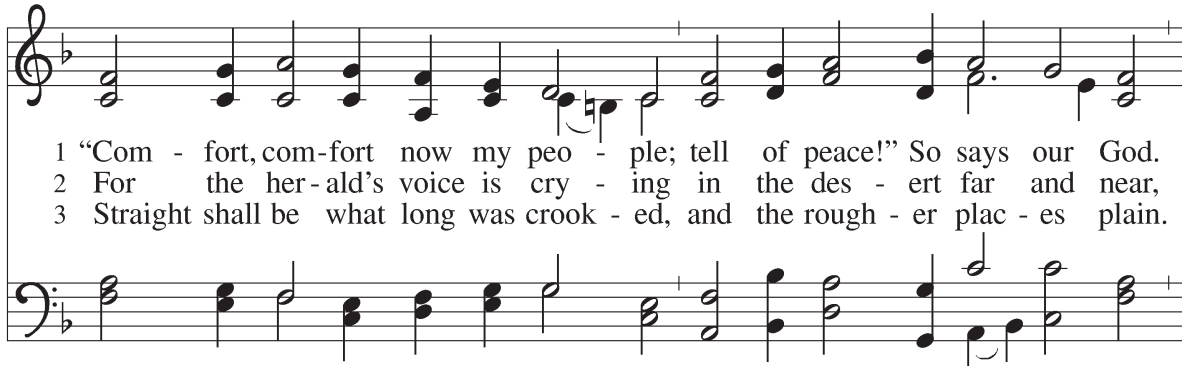
Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had ne'er Our Lady,
A-been heav'ne queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!

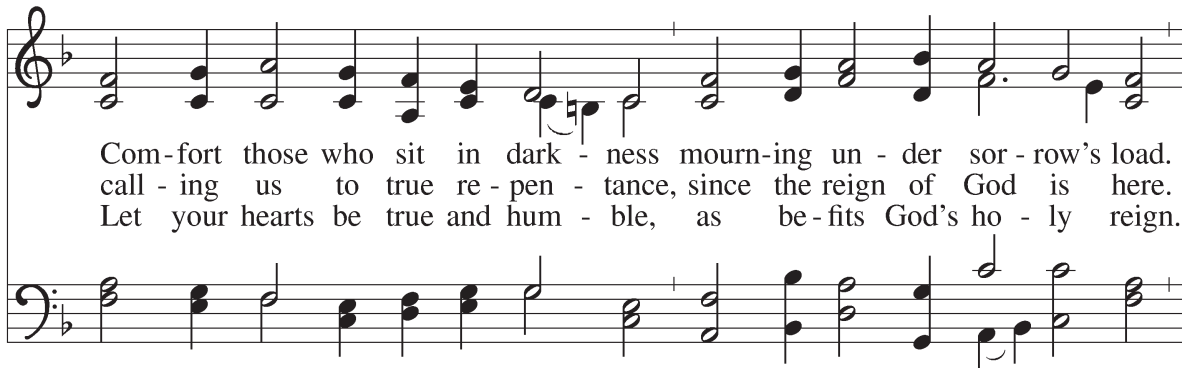
SECOND READING ISAIAH 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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



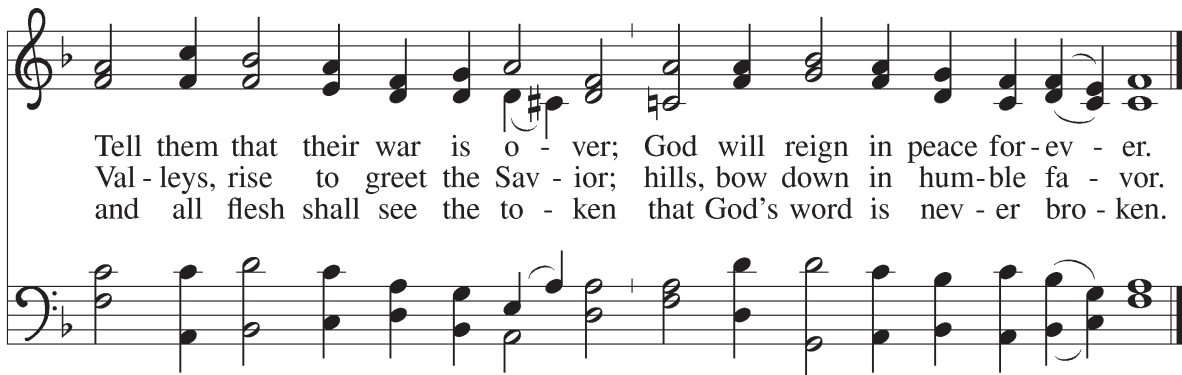
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



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



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



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

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

THIRD READING BARUCH 4:36-5:9

³⁶ Look towards the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. ³⁷ 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. ⁵ Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. ² Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; ³ for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. ⁴ For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

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

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 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,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 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
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. 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 Rose, 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: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934
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FOURTH READING MICAH 5:2-4

² 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.

³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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;

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

SUNG RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

All 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 All 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 Choir Only 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 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it 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. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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. ⁸A 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. ⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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

O Come, Emmanuel
by Elaine Hagenberg

Chancel Choir

SIXTH READING LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.**

SUNG RESPONSE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



All 1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 Low Voices 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 High Voices 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 All 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.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION COMPARE WITH KAREN

As we prepare for Immanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Petitions end with: Lord, in your mercy,

Response: **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers from our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
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

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night
by Thomas Keesecher

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God,

you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We thank you for the gifts gathered today, and the gifts of this holy meal. Strengthen us, that we may live in expectation of the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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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 score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

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

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord. Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/2 time signature. The second staff changes to a 4/4 time signature. The third staff changes to a 3/2 time signature. The fourth and fifth staves return to a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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, 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

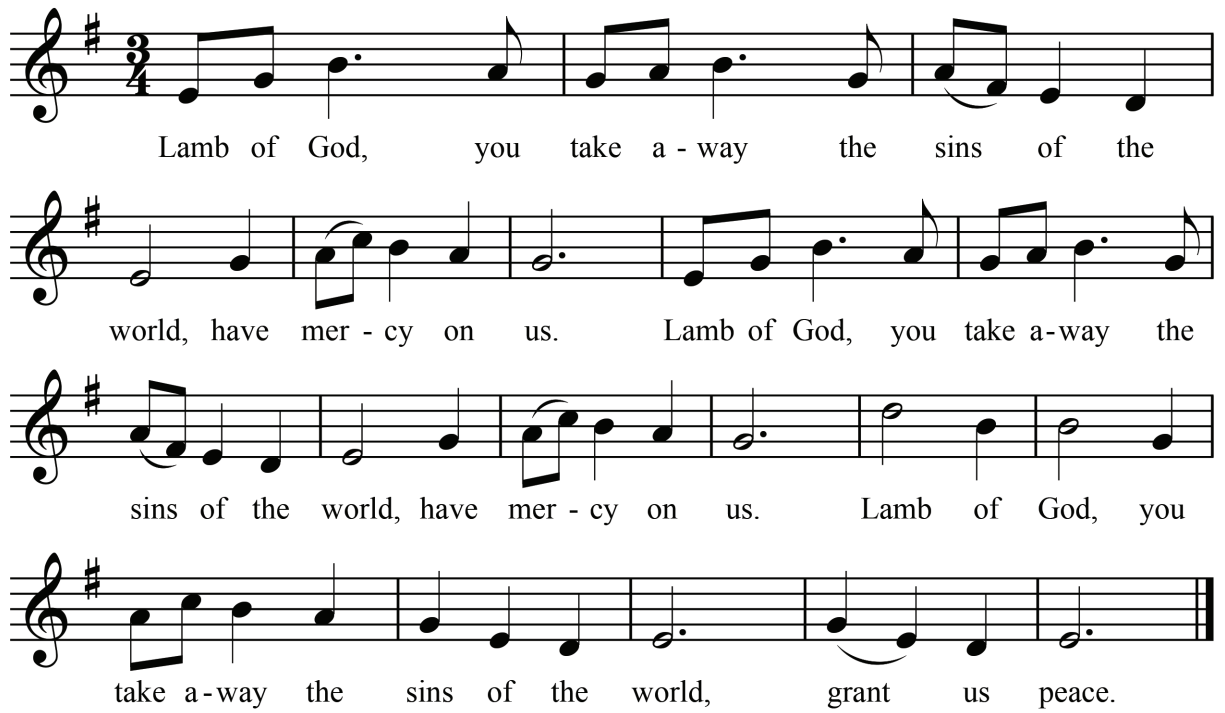
Please be seated.

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.

During this Advent season of waiting, we remain still to sing the "Lamb of God."

LAMB OF GOD



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

COMMUNION MUSIC

Creator of the Stars of Night
arranged by Michael Larkin

Chancel Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 no soul can guess Love's grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890
 Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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. Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, and the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, and leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, and sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us, as we care for others in your name.

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. Share the good news of God's love.

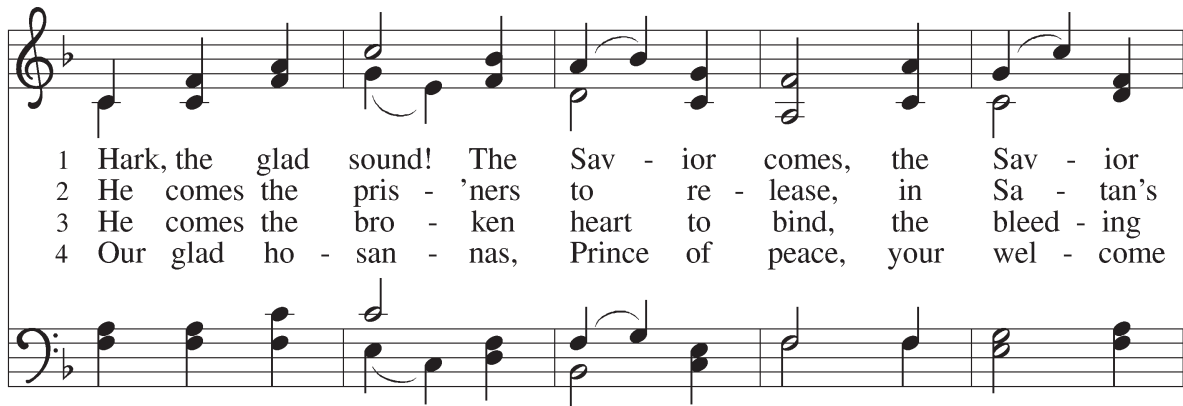
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

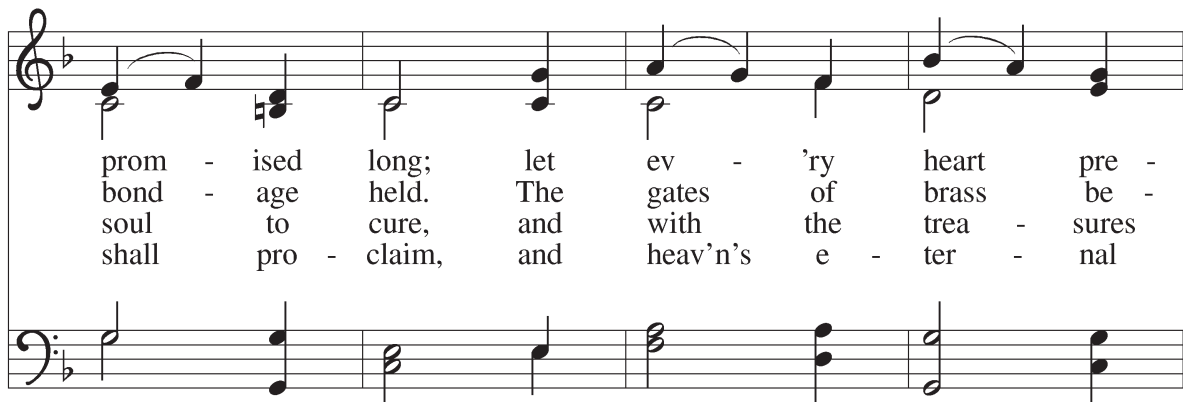
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
(Savior of the Nations, Come)
by J.S. Bach BWV 661

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 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, December 8

WELCA Christmas Tea Sign-up in Gazebo

In-Person Ticket Sales & Pickup for *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Series: <i>The Weary World Rejoices</i>	10:15	MC 1
Congregational Meeting to Vote to Call Pastor Al Jensen	10:15	Details next page
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, December 9

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship 6pm Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 10

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study & More	10am	Fellowship Hall
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Handbells	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Center 1
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, December 11

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship	1:00 and 6:30pm	Church 1
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 12

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC-5 and 6

Saturday, December 14

Weight Watchers Meeting 7:30am Church 2

Sunday, December 15

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Series: <i>The Weary World Rejoices</i>	10:15	MC 1
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube
D.I.Y. Nativity, details page 32	3:00	Sanctuary

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Chris & Don Jones,
Mary Jo Goldenbaum, Belynda McKenzie
Susan & Joe Noonan, Kathy Null
Linda & Roy Tschirhart

Book Bearer

9:00 Jennifer Kretzschmar
11:30

Crucifer

9:00 Kevin Kretzschmar
11:30

Torch Bearers

9:00 Jackson Kretzschmar
Kenny Kretzschmar
11:30

Lay Reader

9:00 John Macha, Jake Apodaca
11:30 Kim Linsenhardt, LeShea Clabough

Communion Servers

9:00 Melanie Murray, Amy Swanson
11:30 LeShea Clabough & Kevin M^cGee

Livestream

David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

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

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–5	MC-4
Grades 6–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

Adults are invited to MC 1 for the devotional series, “The Weary World Rejoices.” Led by John Macha and Amy McFadden. Runs through December 15.

Two Midweek Services Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion’s historic chapel.

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight worship services with holy communion, in the sanctuary.

- 3:00
- 5:00
- 7:00

Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Vote to Extend Call to Pastor Al Jensen Today at 10:15am

Come to the sanctuary between services for an important meeting to vote to extend a Call to Pastor Al Jensen as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. The second agenda item is to approve a compensation package for Pastor Jensen. A quorum of the membership is required by our constitution, so all voting members are encouraged to attend.



Angel Tree Gifts for Foster Children



All the gift suggestion tags have been taken, so now its time to bring your gifts for the foster children those tags represent. Bring your tagged, UNWRAPPED gift to the church by 1:00 TODAY. On Monday, the Pathways social workers will collect our gifts for distribution in time for Christmas.

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.

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.

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

STAFF CONTACT

Pastor Kathi Johnson	<i>Day Off</i>
Senior Pastor	<i>Monday</i>
kjohnson@ZionSA.org	

Pastor Dan Heim	<i>Friday</i>
Pastor, Youth & Family	
dheim@ZionSA.org	

Pastor Eileen Spehr	
Visitation Pastor	
visitation@ZionSA.org	

Suzie Wyatt	<i>Thursday</i>
Administrator	<i>afternoon</i>
swyatt@ZionSA.org	

Rob Mikulski	<i>Monday</i>
Music Director	
rmikulski@ZionSA.org	

Sammy Mikulski	<i>Monday</i>
Theatre Director	
theatre@ZionSA.org	



**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.



Sign Up Today for the
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.*



ZTG.Booktix.net

Tickets on Sale for January 17-19 and 24-26

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via QR or ZTG.Booktix.net.
- Dinner seating reservations may be made by email to Theatre@ZionSA.org
- In-person sales and ticket pickup begin today in the gazebo.



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.



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.

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

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Karen Umlang	Treasurer
Chris Jones	<i>Offices pending until January '25</i>
Erica Macha	
Rachel Williams	
Shiloh Love	
Matt Iwanicki	
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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Social media vectors created by myriammira - freepik.com

Game Group

Monday, December 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. Dec 2/16



MomCo, a Community for All Moms
Wednesday, December 18 in MC Room 1

Zion MomCo* supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents.

Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those Wednesdays.

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

** Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers*

MomCo Registration



Prayer Chain and Z-Mail

Prayer Chain requests are sent out by e-mail as needed, no more than once a day. When requesting prayers for others by name, please confirm with that person first.

Z-Mail is Zion's weekly e-mail with event reminders, links to Sunday YouTube video worship, digital bulletins, and other notifications.

To request prayers, join the Prayer Chain, or subscribe to Z-Mail, phone the church office at 210-688-3090 or send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org.

Music Rehearsal Schedule

Handbells	Tuesday	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children's Choir (Gr 2-5)	Tuesday	7-7:45	MC 1
Youth Choir (Gr 6-12)	Tuesday	7-8pm	Music Apse
Chancel Choir (Adult)	Wednesday	7:15	Sanctuary

December Holidays

- Quilters are on break until Thursday, January 2.
- Crafty Bunch is on hiatus until Wednesday, January 8.

Zion Bunco Group

4th Monday, December 23 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-McBrayer through the church office.



Diamond Plus Age 75+ Event Update February 14, 2025

Save the date now for a new tradition - the Diamond Plus luncheon will now be a Valentine's Day event! On Friday, February 14, all those who are age 75+ are invited to come for lunch and a celebration of Zion's 121st anniversary. We'll have great food, fellowship, and fun - so plan on joining us! Stay tuned for more details to come. (This change will better accommodate busy holiday schedules towards the end of the year.)

*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

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent brings peace to God's people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah praises the Lord
Wednesday	Mark 1:1-8	The preaching of John the Baptist
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Luke 3:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare for your coming into our lives and world so that we may know your peace through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent with peace as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)



DECEMBER 8, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Prepare the Royal Highway



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:

- To repent means “to turn around.” When is a time you were headed in the wrong direction and had to turn around?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God’s love shown in Jesus change you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 1:67-79.

This is a New Testament psalm known as the song of Zechariah. It is a very important song that has been used in the *Matins* (morning prayer) service over the centuries in the church. Zechariah is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message for our lives today. Zechariah prepares us for the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation that is about to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to “*the tender mercy of our God*” (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:67-79 and pause to feel the joy and gladness of Zechariah’s song with the message that will “*guide our feet into the way of peace*” (v. 79b).

Discuss: How does reading Zechariah’s song bring you peace and joy?

Pray: **Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help someone experience the peace of God’s presence?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The second candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of peace. Discuss or think about how preparing the way of the Lord can bring peace. Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace on the Advent Wreath.

Say: **Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.**

(Luke 1: 67, 76)

Pray: **Lord God, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**



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