

December 15, 2024 • Third 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

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

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>Stay Awake! Be Ready!</i> by Linda Carpenter and Lois Holck	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i> setting by Anne Krentz Organ	

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.

Sesson 001



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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 Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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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

The musical score for the Kyrie consists of three systems, each with two parts: Cantor and All. The music is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mercy." and "Christ, have mercy." The Cantor part is marked with a fermata over the word "mercy" in each phrase. The All part is marked with a fermata over the word "mercy" in each phrase. The first system is for "Lord, have mercy.", the second for "Christ, have mercy.", and the third for "Lord, have mercy.".

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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

Gina Williams

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

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

PSALM: ISAIAH 12

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



Cry out with joy and glad - ness; for a -
mong you is the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Truly, God is my salvation.
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my savior.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. R̄.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name, R̄.

sing a psalm to the Lord!
For he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. 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: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

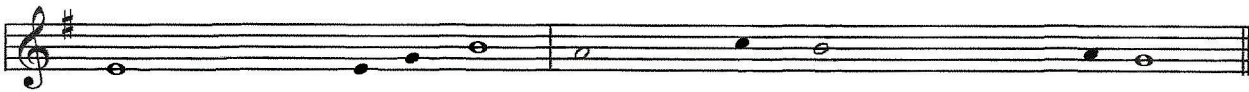
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God

Repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:7-18

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

*Spark Children's Bible Story
Mary Visits Elizabeth, p. 202*

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Thee Is Gladness



1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



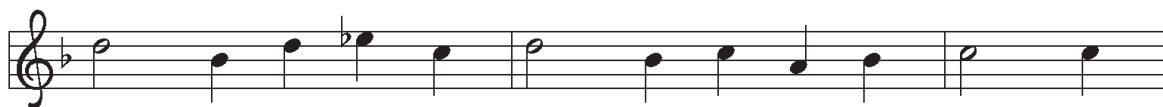
true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**catholic: universal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

9:00

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
15th century French tune

Children's
Choir

11:30

Celtic Advent Carol
by Michael Barrett

Youth Choir
Elyse Hearn, Flute

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

OFFERING PRAYER

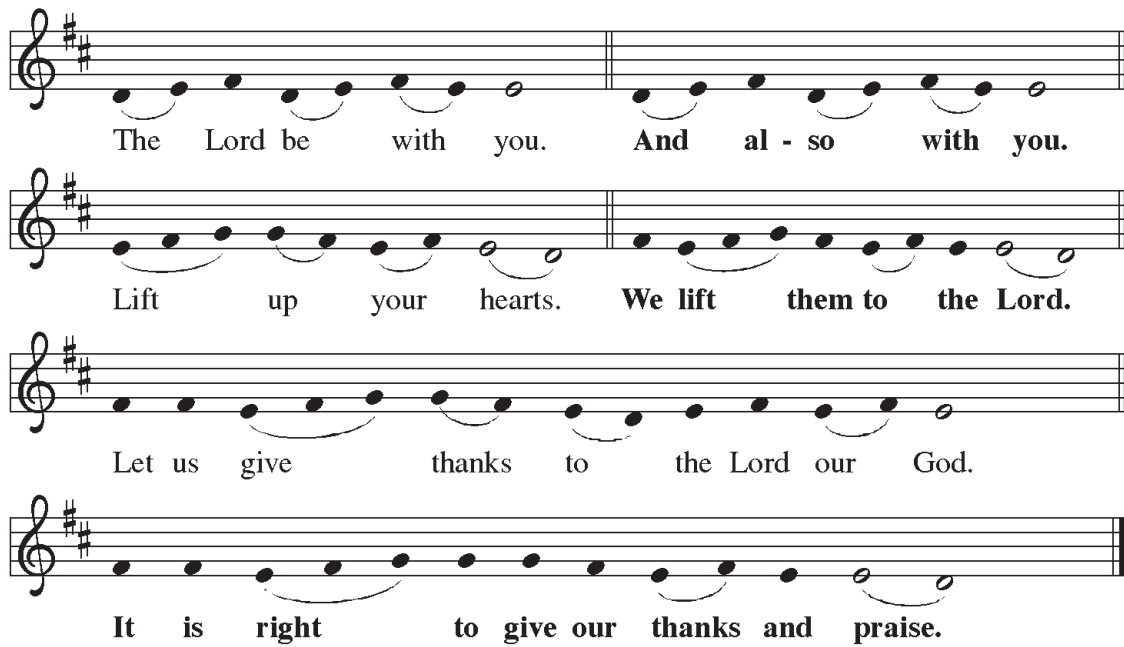
Let us pray. Creator God,

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.

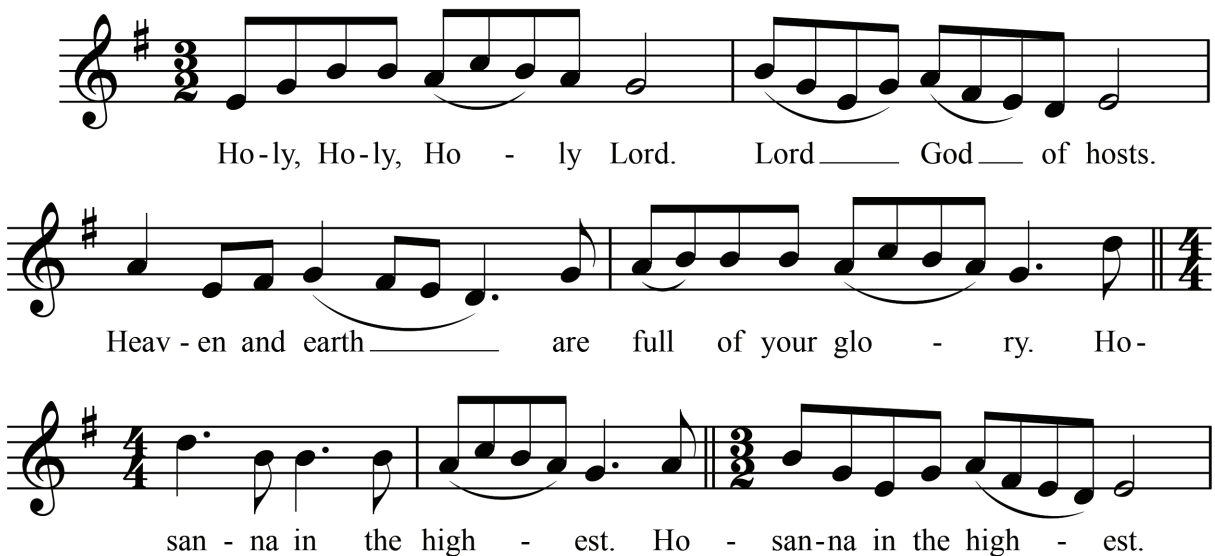
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GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

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:



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.

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

9:00

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
by Jeremy Young

Children's Choir

11:30

The Yearning by Craig Courtney

Youth Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

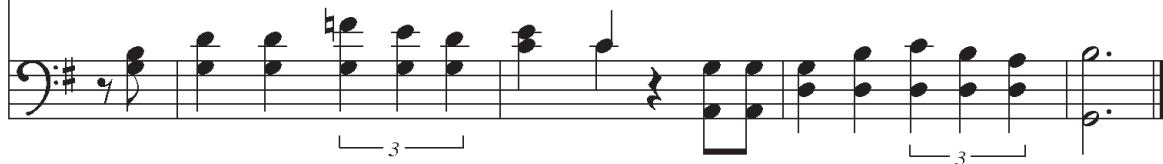
He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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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. 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

Paeon on "Joy to the World" by David Laskey

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 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, December 15

In-Person Ticket Sales & Pickup for <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>		Gazebo
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Series (final): <i>The Weary World Rejoices</i>	10:15	MC 1
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online
D.I.Y. Nativity, details page 19	3:00	Sanctuary

Monday, December 16

Game Group	12:30	Fellowship Hall
LMM Men's Fellowship & Dinner	6:30	El Chaparral Rest.

Tuesday, December 17

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
Handbells	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Center 1
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, December 18

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
MomCo Community for All Mothers	9:30	Ministry Center 1
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship	1:00 and 6:30pm	Church 1
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FH (change)
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	Church 2 (change)
Chancel Choir and Youth Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 19

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Youth Night	6:30	Ministry Center
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

Saturday, December 21

Weight Watchers Meeting	7:30am	Church 2
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Sunday, December 22

In-Person Ticket Sales & Pickup for <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>		
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio	11:30	Sanctuary & online
<i>Faith Formation Holiday Dec 22 & 29</i>		

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard
Ruth Medbury, Karen Sturdivant
Laura Walsh

Lay Reader

9:00 Mary Mora
11:30 Jeff Williams

Cantor

Emma Elkin

Communion Servers

9:00 Jenn & Kevin Kretzschmar
11:30 Chris Jones
Rachel Cannady

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 Pam Gammage

Two Midweek Services

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

Simple communion worship services
in Zion's historic chapel.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for Festival Worship on De-
cember 24! Candlelight worship
services with holy communion, in
the sanctuary are at

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

We will livestream the 5:00pm ser-
vice on YouTube@ZionSanAntonio.

Christmas Eve Ushers Needed

Christmas Eve is one of the days we
welcome many guests to our cam-
pus. As such, we need ushers to help
extend a warm welcome at all three
services. Please visit the ushers' stand
in the corner of the Narthex today to
sign up, or speak with one of the ush-
ers. No prior experience is needed.



D.I.Y. Nativity TODAY

Please join us this afternoon, 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 Gener-
osity 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 TODAY, December 15, zionsagenerosity@
gmail.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 Mon-
days. Contact Algine Perry through the church office if you
have questions.



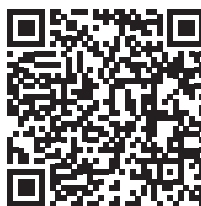
Christmas Fundraiser for Puerto Rico Trip

Zion youth and adults going on a Lutheran service-learning trip to Puerto Rico in July 2025 are offering

to help with your Christmas dinner with this fundraiser – homemade casseroles, quiches and other side dishes for a suggested donation of \$18-\$25 each.

Pick up your orders in the Fellowship Hall today (if you have pre-ordered), next Sunday December 22, or have it delivered to your home.

Paper order forms are available from Pastor Dan or Jennifer Kretzschmar, in the narthex. This QR code takes you to the digital order form and Vanco payment link. A digital link is also in the December 13 Z-mail.



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

- Online theatre seating ticket sales are now open via this QR or ZTG.Booktix.net.
- Dinner seating reservations may



ZTG.Booktix.net

- be made by email to Theatre@ZionSA.org
- In-person sales and ticket pickup is in the gazebo on Sundays.

December Holidays

- Quilters are on break until Thursday, January 2.
- Crafty Bunch is on hiatus until Wednesday, January 8.
- The next Bunco group meets again January 27

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

2025 COUNCIL

Bud Halstead	President
Karen Umlang	Treasurer
Chris Jones	<i>Offices pending until January 2025</i>
Erica Macha	
Rachel Williams	
Shiloh Love	
Matt Iwanicki	
Pr. Kathi Johnson	Senior Pastor
Pr. Dan Heim	Pastor



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 lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Zion Votes to Extend Call to Pastor Al Jensen

as Associate Pastor of Congregational Care

Congratulations to Pastor Al, and we look forward to him joining us on January 16, 2025!

For a brief biography of Pastor Al, check your email from Zion, sent last Monday, December 9.

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 or send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org.

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!

MomCo Registration



* Formerly MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers



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

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**DECEMBER 15, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



Living a life of repentance brings joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Tuesday	Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	Hebrews 13:7-17	Service that pleases God
Friday	Luke 15:1-7	The parable of the lost sheep
Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*So with many other exhortations, [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. **Luke 3:18 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may the good news of your coming fill our hearts with joy and lead us to love you and have compassion for others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, bless our homes with joy this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts of food, make us ready for Jesus, the one who is to come. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with joy.



DECEMBER 15, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



**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:

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- A life of repentance brings joy and loving actions. How is that good news for us?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 3:7-18.

John the Baptist gets people's attention with words of condemnation, warning, and confrontation. And it works, or at least the crowd is riveted for a while. The people wonder what to do to get their lives in order. Simple: don't abuse your power and wealth; share; be generous. They are to show a life of repentance, which means living life differently because of God's ways and power. However, John's suggestions aren't the "how-to steps" to achieving a successful life. They are examples of behaviors of a life that trusts the good news. A life of repentance brings joy and loving actions. The good news of Jesus changes everything with the power of grace, mercy, and peace. John the Baptist describes it as the life that bears "*fruits worthy of repentance*" (v. 8).

Discuss: How would you describe the good news of Jesus to others?

Pray: **Righteous God, we thank you that earthly powers that abuse others are condemned; we ask that your reign of peace bear the fruit of repentance in us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might your actions bring joy to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The third candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of joy. Discuss or think about the joy that Jesus brings to the world. Light the first candle of hope, the second candle of peace, and the third candle of joy on the Advent Wreath.

Say: **In Isaiah's song, he names God as the source of our salvation and the one to trust without fear. Isaiah cries out, "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." Let us give thanks for the joy that Jesus brings. (Isaiah 12:2-3)**

Pray: **Thank you, Lord Jesus for giving us joy. Fill our lives with joy this Advent. Amen.**



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