

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

**(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

D: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

D: God-with-us,

C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory; a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

D: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. C: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN:** ELW 275 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

You are invited to face the back of the church for the opening hymn. As the cross is processed into the congregation you may continue to sing toward it.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879 REGENT SQUARE 078787

***APOSTOLIC GREETING** (Based on 2 Corinthians 13:13)

D: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE** (tune: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*)

Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on us.
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Shine your light in to our dark - ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love.
 Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to live as one.

Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind.
 Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.

Breathe new life in - to our spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our hearts and minds.
 Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our Lord, Em - man - u - el.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** (Based on the Gospel of Luke 2:14)

Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
 Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed

joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo -
 up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

WORDS: David Eck, copyright © 2011. TUNE: Angels We Have Heard On High

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

D: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (pg. 214 in pew Bible)

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 148 (pg. 508 in pew Bible)

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Congregation: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

C: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

C: He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

C: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

C: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17 (pg. 958 in pew Bible)

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *as the children come forward, please join in singing:*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* #44 green book)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord to whom now shall we go?
Alleluia, Alleluia, Let Your blessings through us flow!
You have words of life eternal, help us to hear them, and to tell all
In your wisdom, make us grow; in your wisdom, make us grow.

***GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:41-52 (pg. 833 in pew Bible)

Before reading: D: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

After the reading: D: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 288 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

IN DULCI JUBILO
 66 77 78 55

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*APOSTLES' CREED

D: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(after hearing, "Lord in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord." respond: **Amen**)

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

D: The peace of Christ be with you. C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING WITH OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, which is our regular electronic offering service, offering both one-time, and regular, automatic options.



***POST OFFERING VERSE** (tune: *What Child Is This*)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

D: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

D: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things; you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

D: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts; freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

D: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

D: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

D: Trusting in God's mercy and grace, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

***BENEDICTION**

D: The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** ELW 267 *Joy to the World* (next page)

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

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: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872 ANTIOCH CM and repeat

***DISMISSAL**

D: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. C: **Thanks be to God!**

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

Welcome, Deacon Kristen Barnes as our worship leader and preacher this morning. Deacon Barnes serves as Chaplain at Penn State Holy Spirit Hospital Please note that we will not be celebrating communion this morning, but will next Sunday, January 5. We thank Deacon Barnes for sharing God's Word with us while Pastor Caitlin is away. If you or a loved one are in need of pastoral care during Pastor Caitlin's vacation, please either call the Church Office 717 865 2848 or Pastor Cheri Korte who is providing coverage in her absence (717 606 8851). Pastor returns to the office on January 2.

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Andy Bomberger, Nancy Bowman, Pastor Ted Hummel, hurricane victims and all victims of violence.

Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School
Wednesday night 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study

This Week at Zions:

Dec. 31, Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
 Jan. 1, 2025, Wednesday -No activities this week.

Next Week at Zions:

Jan. 7, , Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
 Jan. 8, 2025, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship,
 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

2025 offering envelopes are ready for new members and people who have recently used envelopes to give. Envelopes are located on the windowsill outside of the Church Secretary's Office. If you don't see your name and would like an offering envelope, please contact Kerri Price or the Bonny, Church Secretary.

As you think about Christmas and end-of-year gifts, we ask you to consider supporting Zion's with a special gift. Together, we have done incredible ministry in Christ's name this year--helping to open the Northern Lebanon Clothing Closet, creating and sending forth 40+ quilts to families affected by disaster, teaching scripture to people of all ages in Sunday School, Men's and Women's Bible studies, Zion's Preschool, Babies and Bibles, and Release Time, providing support, counseling, and prayer shawls to individuals in crisis, and extending welcome to individuals with special needs at Rejoicing Spirits and the DDS dance...just to name a few. We are grateful for your gifts of time and money that have helped make these ministries possible, and ask for your help to finish the year strong. **THANK YOU** for your generosity and support

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Nancy Ludwig	Kelly Rittle
Prayer	Matt Wolfe	Debbie Long
Children's sermon	Christine Techky	Pastor Caitlin
Comm. Assts.		
Greeter		
Acolyte	Daryl Root	Greyson McQuaide Jacob Anspach
Crucifer	Madison Hess	
Altar Guild	Merkel family	Bucks family
Elevette	Tom Frey	Ann Kulp
Dec. Ushers	Rob McQuaide, Xander McQuaide, Rick Herr, Al Reiner	

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
SOUND: Houser family	PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz
ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848	PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652
zions@comcast.net	pastorckurtz@gmail.com