



Sunday, December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2860
www.zionlutheranportland.org
email: zion.lutheran@snet.net

HOLY COMMUNION

Setting three

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

GATHERING

WELCOME

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through + Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“God Is Here!”

ELW 526

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

Pastor: Kyrie eleison.

People: Kyrie eleison.

Pastor: Christe eleison.

People: Christe eleison.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

(The first candle is lit)

HYMN "Light One Candle" (vs. 1)

ELW 240

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is

our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM **Psalm 25:1-10**

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the
day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that
we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most
earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is
lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our
way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in
love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³
And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be
blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

People: Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia! (2 times)

Verse: Show us, Lord, Your love, and grant us Your salvation.

People: Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “In the Bleak Midwinter”

ELW 294

Please be seated

APOSTLES’ CREED

pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life’s transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering (especially). In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another (especially through [local ministries] supported by this congregation). Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died (especially). Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your

promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, , **receive our prayer.**

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

HYMN

Please stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 144

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(traditional)*

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 TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

DISTRIBUTION

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“From Heaven Above”

ELW 268

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 496

Please stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” **ELW 436**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:	Allen H	Peter W	For Safety:
Clara W	Matthew A	Milluzzo and	Erik S
Joyce G	Bud J	Neri families	Andrew C
Bill B	Marjorie F	Joan A	Todd S
Cathy L	Jessica A	Shirley C	Michael C
Marion B	Charlotte D	Diane E	Tyler G
Lily V	Jonathan A	Family of	Erik B
Holly N	Pauline N	Marion W	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Curt R	Family of	Evan G
Lisa A	Matthew S	Ivar Jozus	David P
Aiden J	Lloyd P		
Helen A	Phil O		

SERVING TODAY

Donna Berndtson - Lector
Pauline Neumann - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Altar Guild Members - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



Flowers on the Altar Today
Are in Memory of

Marion Bryer Willse

By the Family

During Advent we will be collecting personal care items for the Portland Food Bank.

December 1 - Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Bodywash, nail files

December 8 - Deodorant, Feminine products, shaving cream, hand lotion, body lotion, Lip Balm

December 15 - Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins, Razors, Diapers size 5 and 6

December 22 - Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss

Please place items in the shopping cart in the Narthex.



Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St. will be hosting a **Coat Drive** on **Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 AM to noon** in their upper fellowship hall.

New or gently used coats, jackets, gloves and hats for adults and children will be donated to Amazing Grace Food Pantry

in Middletown. Amazing Grace serves Middletown and 8 surrounding towns, including Portland. If you are unable to drop off your donations on December 14, please call the church office at 860-342-2860 to make arrangements.



Please Recycle Ink Cartridges Here Starting next week there will be a container to leave your used ink cartridges for us to recycle. When we recycle them, we get some money to use toward office supplies for Zion's and Sunny Hill's offices.



RaiseRight

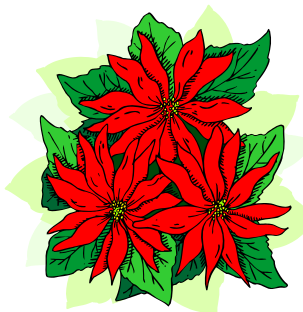
RaiseRight Gift Cards

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip)

cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.

A RaiseRight Gift Cards order will be sent in soon.
Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) cards!
See Rick Borg for details.

Christmas Poinsettia



Anyone who would like to order a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of a loved one may do so by completing this form and returning it by **December 15th** with a check for \$10.00 per plant to:

Attention: **Valerie**
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 202
Portland, CT 06480

Please make the checks payable to:
Zion Lutheran Church Flower Fund

In order to beautify Zion's sanctuary, I would like to order (____) Poinsettia Plant(s) in memory of:

Given by:

- I will pick up my Poinsettia after the Service
- Please deliver my Poinsettia to a shut-in member.
- I will deliver my Poinsettia to a shut-in

Today: December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Tuesday: **6:30 p.m.** Property/Finance

Friday: Set up for True Vine Luncheon

7:00 p.m. N/A

Saturday: **12:00 noon** True Vine Luncheon

Next Sunday: December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. Adult Education

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Attendance: Last week - 56, Last year - 40

Next weeks readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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