



Sunday, December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
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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 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” **ELW 257**

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 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

(The second candle is lit)

HYMN "Light One Candle" (vs. 1-2)

ELW 240

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a

refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 133

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of
his robe.**

³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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 3:1-6

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ 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.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” **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.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (especially). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” **ELW 490**

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” **ELW 488**

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 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” **ELW 244**

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude:

SERVING TODAY

Pam Nordstrom - Lector

Lee Nordstrom - Worship Assistant

Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters

Altar Guild Members - Altar Guild

Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Prayer List

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



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for January, February and March** are available in the Narthex and the Box outside the door with the doorbell.



If you ordered Butterbraid breads, please pick them up from the freezer in back of fellowship hall.

OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Just a reminder - the church library has been transformed into a unique history room of Zion. We hope that you will take a few minutes out of your busy day and check it out.

We have over 200 pictures on display along with Bibles going back into the 1800's, several binders filled with memorabilia, artifacts, artwork and much more. Something for everyone to enjoy. The museum will be open until the end of the year.

Sincerely, The History Committee

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

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

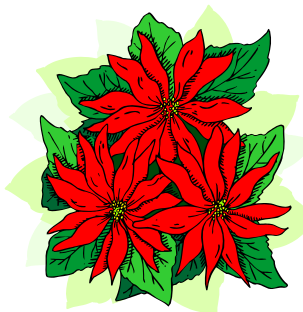
RaiseRight Gift Cards

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 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

This Week:

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

Tuesday: **10:00 p.m.** Happy Handz

Friday: **10:00 p.m.** Happy Handz

Set up Fellowship Hall for Private Party

7:00 p.m. N/A

Saturday: **12:00 noon** Private Party

Next Sunday: December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Attendance: Last week - 55, Last year - 50

Next weeks readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

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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