



**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
*Third 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** “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” **ELW 254**

## **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 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.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

*(The third candle is lit)*

**HYMN** "Light One Candle" (vs. 1-3)

**ELW 240**

## **WORD**

*Please be seated*

**FIRST READING** **Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> 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 <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM    Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**SECOND READING    Philippians 4:4-7**

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

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 3:7-18**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> 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.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>18</sup> 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 Sara Stall-Ryan

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

ELW 239

*Please be seated*

## APOSTLES' CREED

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## 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 who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. (We pray especially for . . .) Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here (specific ministries may be named). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved

ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. 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**

“I Come With Joy”

**ELW 482**

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing”

**ELW 544**

*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** “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” **ELW 551**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

*Postlude:*



## Prayer List

<b>For Health:</b>	Helen A	Lloyd P	<b>For Safety:</b>
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		

### SERVING TODAY

Deb Gustafson - Lector  
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant  
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan  
- Ushers/Greeters  
Altar Guild Members - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



**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 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.**

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**2024**

**December 22 - 9:00 a.m.** Worship and Christmas Pageant

**December 24 - 5:30 p.m.** Christmas Eve Service

**December 25 -** No Christmas Day Service

**December 29– 10:00 a.m.** A Service of Lessons and Carols at  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
345 Main Street, Portland



**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**

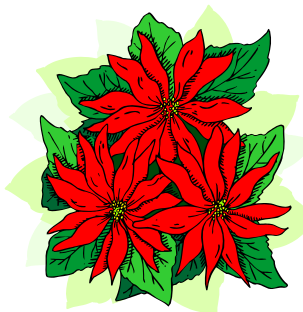
**RaiseRight Gift Cards**

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:

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Given by:

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- 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 15, 2024**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:15 a.m.** Sunday School - dress rehearsal

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

**This Week:**

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

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

Thursday: **5:30 p.m.** Cub Scouts

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

**7:00 p.m.** N/A

Saturday: Flower Delivery

**Next Sunday: December 22, 2024**

**Fourth 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 - 54, Last year - 101 (Pageant)

Next weeks readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55;  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

**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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