



Joy to the world,  
the Lord is come!

# December 24, 2024

## *Christmas Eve*

### HOLY COMMUNION

*Setting Three*

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

*Time for Meditation and Personal Prayer*

*Prelude*

*A Christmas Carol Voluntary*

### WELCOME

### GATHERING

*Please stand*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**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.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved,

+ forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” **ELW 283**

**KYRIE**

pg. 138

**HYMN**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**ELW 289**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

*Please be seated*

#### **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 96** (*sung responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD | a new song;  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;  
proclaim God’s salvation from | day to day.**

<sup>3</sup> Declare God’s glory a- | mong the nations  
and God’s wonders a- | mong all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**

**more to be feared<sup>1</sup> than all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they<sup>1</sup> are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have<sup>1</sup> made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are<sup>1</sup> in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your<sup>1</sup> sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families<sup>1</sup> of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon-<sup>1</sup> or and power.

<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the<sup>1</sup> holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts<sup>1</sup> of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beau-<sup>1</sup> ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: “The<sup>1</sup> LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved  
will judge the peo-<sup>1</sup> ples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the<sup>1</sup> earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all  
that<sup>1</sup> is therein.

<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-  
<sup>1</sup> ing, O LORD,  
for you come to<sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the<sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peoples<sup>1</sup> with your truth.

## **SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL HYMN “Let Our Gladness Have No End” ELW 291**

**GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20**

The holy gospel according to Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was

descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

*Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Love Has Come”

**ELW 292**

### **NICENE CREED**

pg. 104

### **PRAYERS**

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior’s birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of

grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy (especially). We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

pg. 128

## **MEAL**

*Please be seated*

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" **ELW**  
**288**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

*Please Stand*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

pg. 144

It is indeed right...

## **SANCTUS**

pg. 144

*Please kneel or sit*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER** *(Traditional)*

pg. 145

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.  
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*Please be seated*

### **LAMB OF GOD**

pg. 146

*Please kneel or sit*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**ELW 282**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

**ELW 272**

“What Child is This”

**ELW 296**

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please stand*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Merciful God,  
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness,  
send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted,  
and share the good news of great joy. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **SERVICE OF CANDLELIGHT**

*The minister lights a large candle from the altar, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another. As the candles are illuminated we hear*

*the gospel from John.*

**Reading: John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**HYMN OF LIGHT** "Silent Night, Holy Night!" **ELW 281**

**BLESSING**

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

**SENDING HYMN** "The Bells of Christmas" **ELW 298**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude: Joy to the World Lowell Mason - AJH*





## **Prayer List**

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

## **SERVING TODAY**

Chris Darby - Lector  
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant  
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg - Ushers/Greeters  
Altar Guild - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



**Sunny Hill Preschool** will be  
holding an Open House on  
**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**  
from 4:30 - 6:00

**p.m.**

**Come meet the teachers.  
Bring your children.  
The snow date is January 24th**



**Annual Meeting Notice:**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on **Sunday, January 26, 2025** immediately following the Service. The Snow date is **February 2, 2025**.

Please submit your reports no later than  
**January 15, 2025**



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



**Streetfire Donations Box**

During the month of December we will be collecting Men's gloves, scarves, ect. for Streetfire Ministries. A box is available in the Narthex for this collection. We would like to bring them as many pairs of winter gloves as possible and will continue to collect them

through Dec. 31st.



Please note that the church office will be closed from Christmas Eve through New Year's Day. In the case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Sara at 678-882-9011 or email her at [pastorsara2000@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsara2000@gmail.com).

Zion's Council President, Kathy Richards is also available at 860-982-7624.

All other phone calls and emails to the church office will be returned beginning January 2.

**Today: December 24, 2023**  
**Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m.**

**5:30 p.m. Worship/Communion**

**This Week:**

Office/Preschool will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan 2

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

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

**Next Sunday: December 29, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Christmas - New Year's Eve**



**10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols at**  
**Trinity Episcopal Church**

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

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**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan**

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

**P.O. Box 202**

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