

The child **grew &**
BECAME STRONG, filled
with **wisdom**; and the
Grace of God was
upon him.

● ————— Luke ————— ●
2:40

Sunday, February 2, 2025
Presentation of Our Lord

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act

with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithfull”

ELW 283

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

pg. 138

GLORY TO GOD

pg. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84

¹ How dear to me [|] is your dwelling,

O [|] LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts [|] of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the [|] living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may [|] lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king [|] and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell [|] in your house!**

They will always be [|] praising you.

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength ¹ is in you,
whose hearts are set on the ¹ pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a ¹ place of
springs,**

for the early rains have covered it with ¹ pools of water.

⁷ They will climb from ¹ height to height,
and the God of gods will be ¹ seen in Zion.

⁸ **LORD God of hosts, ¹ hear my prayer;
give ear, O ¹ God of Jacob.**

⁹ Behold our defend- ¹ er, O God;
and look upon the face of ¹ your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a ¹ thousand
elsewhere.**

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than dwell in the tents ¹ of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing ¹ grace and
glory;

no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk ¹ with
integrity.

¹² **O ¹ LORD of hosts,**

happy are they who put their ¹ trust in you!

SECOND READING:

Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg. 142

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child

grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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 "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" **ELW 313**

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism (especially as we honor Black History Month) and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness (especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors,

baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed (especially), as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

pg. 128

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 146

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Cold December Flies Away”

ELW 299

“Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

ELW 611

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God
+ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" **ELW 545**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prayer List

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

SERVING TODAY

Pam Nordstrom - Lector
Peter Willse - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Donna Marlow - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Mark your calendar for a special event!

On **Sunday Feb. 23rd** after the worship service the Anniversary Committee will be holding their final event. A coffee hour with a slide show presentation put together by Tom Keser will be shown. It only lasts about 30 minutes so we hope that you will be able to join us. It will be a great opportunity not only for fellowship but to reminisce and learn a lot about our amazing church.

Also, The History Room (library) will be open until Sunday March 2nd. If you haven't seen it yet or would like to see it again now is the time. Thanks again to everyone who helped make 2024 a year to remember.

Join the celebration of Portland's Black History

The Portland Historical Society, Committee on
Solidarity and Public Library present:

Voices of Portland, A Black History Month Panel
February 22 at Portland Middle School at 1:00 p.m.

Register/Questions: 860-342-6770

portlandlibraryct.org/voices-of-portland



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill.

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.



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.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

SPRING GATHERING 2025

You're Invited! With a special invitation to the ELCA women of eastern Connecticut to the Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts Conference of the New England WELCA.

April 5, 2025, 9:00-1:45 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

212 Main St. Foxboro, MA 02035

Breakfast and lunch provided.

Fee: \$20 per person, RSVP to office@lcor.org before 4/1

Send questions to Loni Ivanovskis at lonibelle63@yahoo.com

We will also be collecting a gift-in-kind of new or gently-used small kitchen appliances (drip coffee makers particularly needed)

A free-will offering during worship for NEWELCA will also be gathered.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES

JANUARY 2025

ELCA.org/wildfires

In early January, multiple wildfires broke out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life.

This disaster is just one of many — including hurricanes, war and famine — to which Lutheran Disaster Response is still responding. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond quickly and generously, whenever and wherever disaster may strike.

Though we don't yet know the full impact of the fires, Lutheran Disaster

Response is here to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs amid the destruction as well as to assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by wildfires and other disasters. By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you give the gift of relief today and resilience tomorrow.

.....

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

- Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Note: make your check payable to Zion Lutheran Church and write Lutheran Disaster Response or U.S. Wildfires on your check's memo line. We will send them in one check.

Today: February 2, 2025

Presentation of Our Lord

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
Boy Scout Sunday

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. The Chosen video

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

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

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

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

Saturday: **9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Happy Handz

Next Sunday:

February 9, 2025

5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. Adult Education



Attendance: Last week - 53; Last year - 48

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

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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