Zion Lutheran Church

Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022
11:00 a.m.

Welcome to worship on this holy day of celebration.
We are glad you are with us today for worship.
If you have any questions, please see an usher.

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Denotes Congregation is to stand, if able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

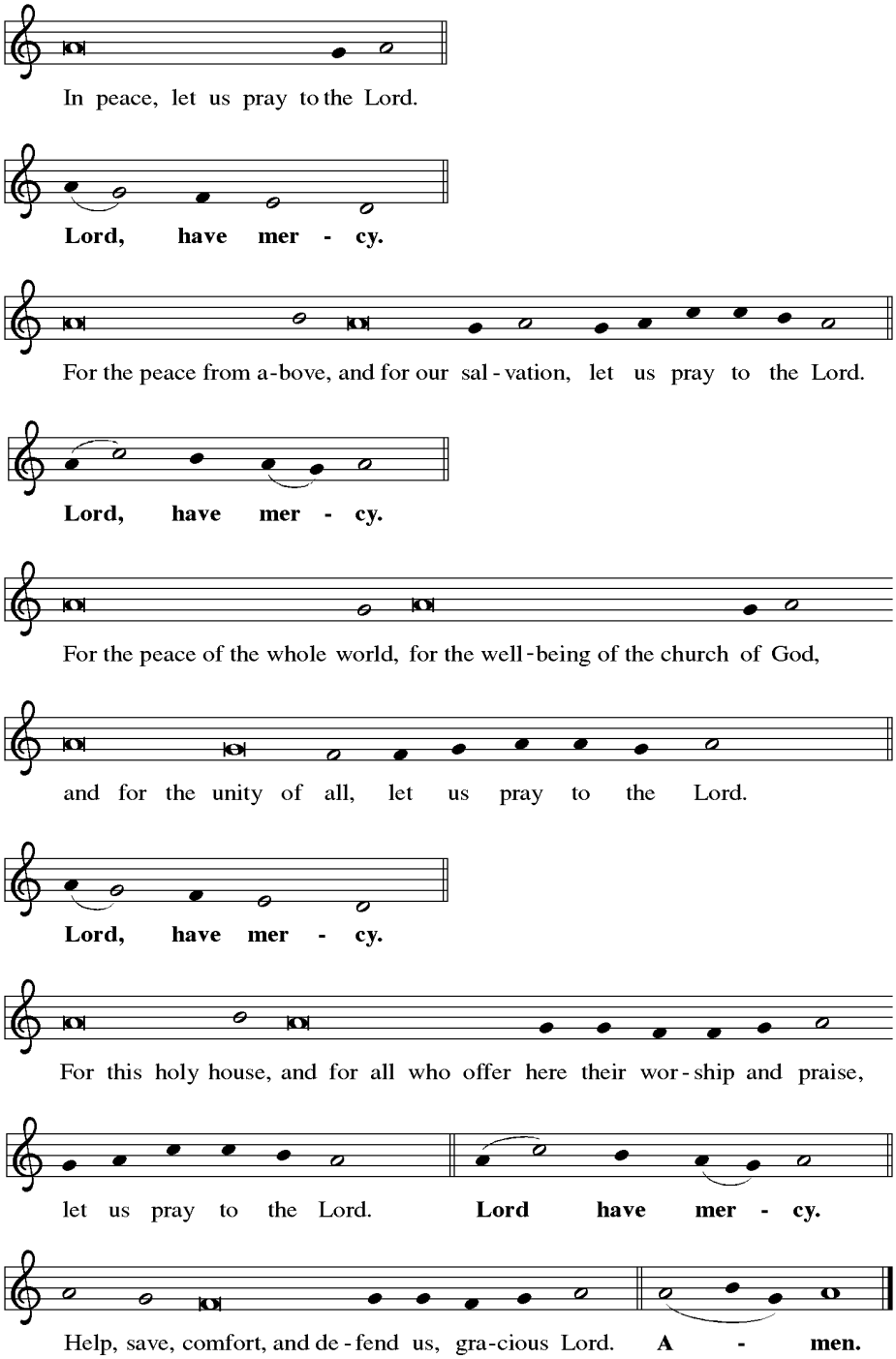
People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✢ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* ELW 254

***APOSTOLIC 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


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Advent Wreath (see insert)

***Prayer of the Day**

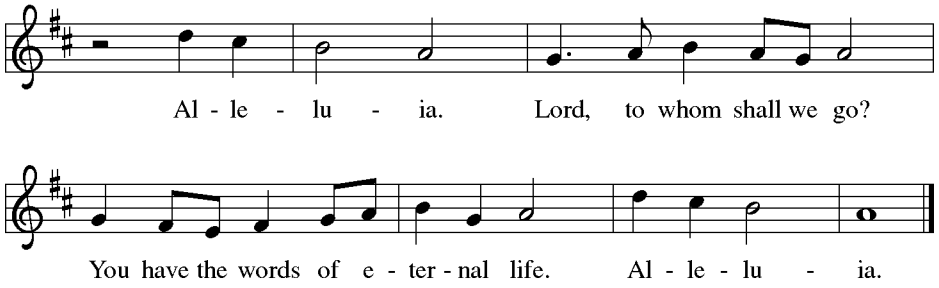
First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalmody Psalm 146:5-10

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;
6**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**
7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.
8**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**
9The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
10**The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

***Gospel Verse**



***Gospel Acclamation**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel** Matthew 11:2-11

(after the reading of the Gospel)
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Beyond Our Dreams*

***Hymn** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* ELW 256

***Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

***Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Please take a moment to look around at your sisters and brothers and offer a sign of peace through a wave, a smile, or a message.

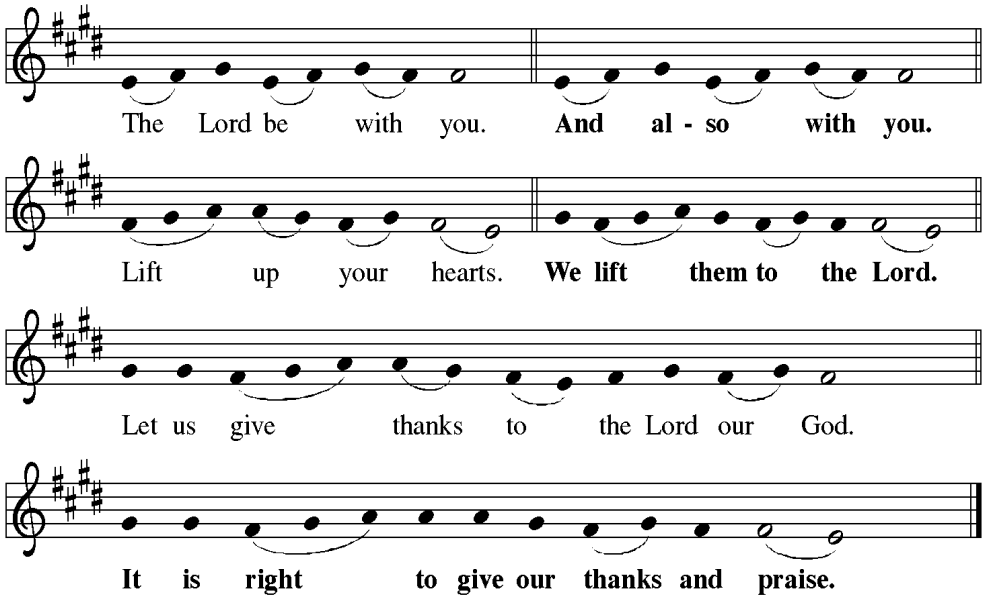
Special Music

Thank you all for the gifts of time, talent, and treasures you give to support the mission at Zion. We cannot do our work without your participation in all three areas. To give financially, please give either online or in the offering plate that the ushers will pass in between pews. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.

Choir Anthem *Song of Bethlehemtown (Cabaniss/Snyder)*

***Offertory Prayer**

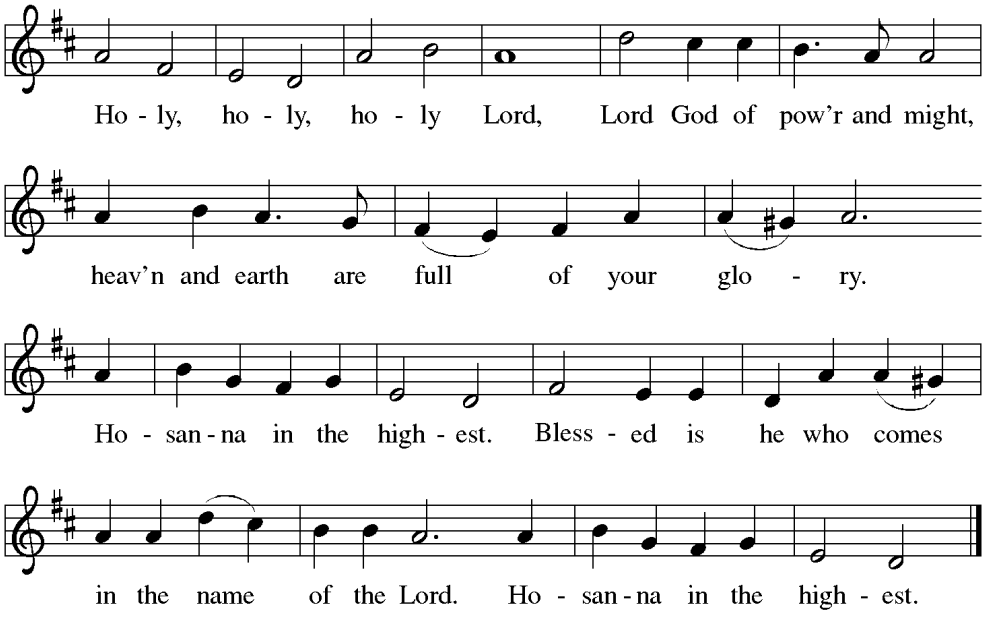
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The pastor will continue with the proper preface:

It is indeed...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS**



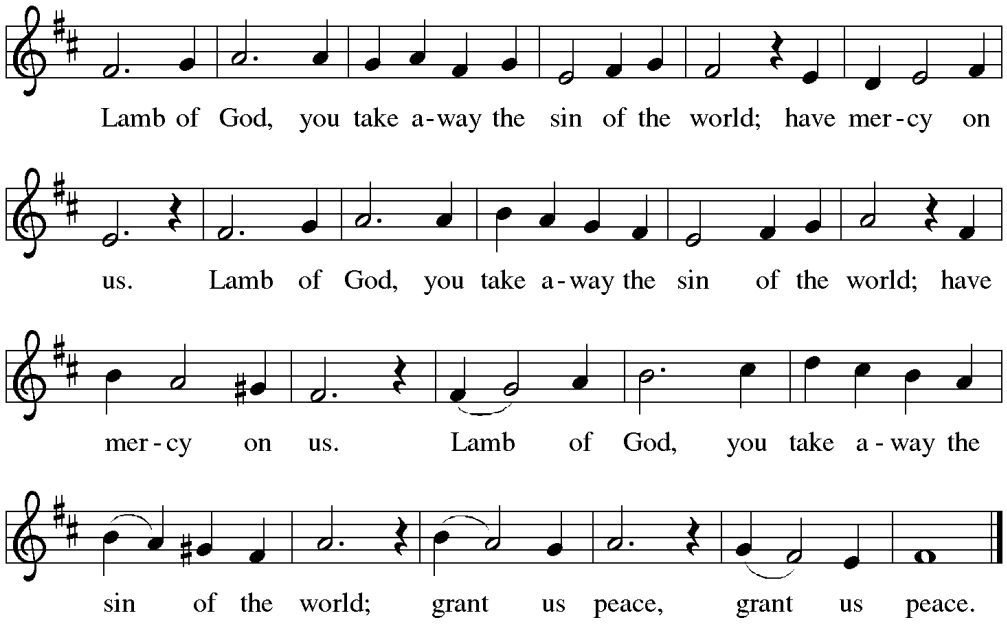
***Eucharistic Prayer**

***The Lord's Prayer**

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.

***Fraction Sentence**

Agnus Dei



Distribution of the sacrament

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion this day. During communion distribution, an usher will invite your pew row to come forward. If you need the pastor to bring you communion, please let an usher know. When you come forward for communion, the pastor or assisting minister will say similar words: "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Your response to each is "Amen." There is a gluten free and grape juice option available if you need this. Know that Christ is fully present in the bread and the wine. If you are only able to receive one kind (such as only the host or only the wine), know that you will receive the same benefits as receiving both. Return your empty glass to the baskets. Children and those not ready to receive communion this day may receive a blessing.

Music During Communion

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion prayer**

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn** *The King Shall Come* ELW 260

***Dismissal**

The worship has ended, now the service begins. As we go out into the world, let us remember our mission.

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Our Mission

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others

Our Vision

At Zion we strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful and Joyous worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our intergenerational congregation and community, using Christian ideas and values.

Our Top Ministry Priorities for 2022

- **Engagement and Outreach**
- **Education**
- **Stewardship**

Welcome to worship. We are so happy you are here.. There are bathrooms located just outside the sanctuary or near the entrance. If you need any other assistance, ask a usher and she or he will be happy to assist you.

The altar flowers are given by Lee Ropp to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorthalee M. Ropp, who left us on this day in 1999 to meet her Heavenly Father.

Servants in God's House
December 11, 2022

11 a.m.

Lee Ropp (Greeter)
Clinton Appleby (Acolyte)
Jonathan Basler (Crucifer)
Sharon Finley (Asst Minister)
Gene Appleby (Lector)
Bob Rockwell (Head Usher)
Carrie Basler (Sanctuary Usher)
Shirley Ferguson (Comm Asst)
Barry Poffinberger (Sound)
Doug Davis (Livestream)

Servants in God's House
December 18, 2022

11 a.m.

Bob Rockwell (Greeter)
Dorothy Moler (Acolyte)
Savannah Staples (Crucifer)
Clinton Appleby (Asst Minister)
Bob Rockwell (Lector)
Lee Ropp (Head Usher)
Michael Ferguson (Sanctuary Usher)
Linda Sanders (Comm Asst)
Doug Davis (Sound)
Bob Staples (Livestream)

Zion Prayer List 12-7-2022

Requests remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

Joel Engel, Frances Eaves, Doris Taylor, Donna Musser, Dolores Para, Mary Jablonski, Guynella Keller, Terry Poffinberger, Adrienne Rhoderick, Eric Kinna, Skippy Zimmerman, Helene Keefner, Sarah Danner, Pat Rudy, Melvin Smith, Harold "Bubby" Webber, Tom & Bonnie Remsberg, Carson Triantos, Matthew Schantz, Janet Young, John Bagent Jr., Evelyn Hawker, Jackie Bello, Sarah Gladhill, Wayne Smith, Nancy Coppola, Kathy Gordon, Bob Guyton, Anna Hough, Kathi Hayter, Shirley Smith, Anna Kepler, Marianna Bere, Marty Appleby, Ruby Pyles, Jessica Catechis, Gene Appleby, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo, Janice Wisner

Please be sure the church is notified if you are hospitalized and if you wish to be placed on the prayer list or would like visitation.

Zion Lutheran Church
107 West Main Street
Middletown, MD 21769
301-371-6500
Website: www.zionmiddletown.org

For emergency pastoral care or to schedule an appointment, please call the church office for additional information.

Pastor Diane Day

ext. 202, pastordiane@zionmiddletown.org

Pastor Matt Day

ext. 209, pastormatt@zionmiddletown.org

Wendi Kishimoto - Church Administrator/ Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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Melissa Cregger - Administrative Assistant

ext. 201, melissac@zionmiddletown.org

Deb Reichelt - Treasurer

treasurer@zionmiddletown.org

Kaye Derr-Financial Secretary

financialsecretary@zionmiddletown.org

Matt Puziss - Director Worship Team

mattpuziss@gmail.com

Bobby Staples - Director of Music Ministry/Organist

rstaples93@gmail.com

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