

Zion Lutheran Church



***11 a.m. Traditional Worship
Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025***

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*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Conditor alme siderum (Creator of the Stars at Night)

Kirk Denton, organ

– Rebecca Groom Te Veld

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

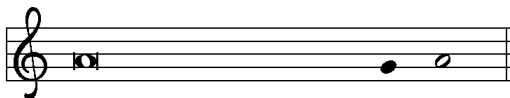
*GATHERING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

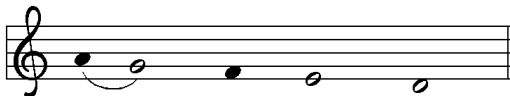
ELW 242

*APOSTOLIC GREETING (☩ 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.



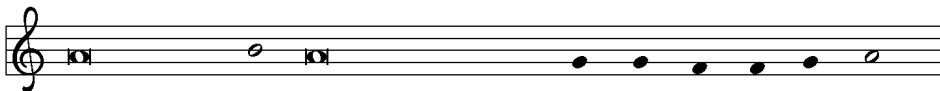
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

We will now sing verse 3 of Light One Candle, hymn 240, as we light two candles on our Advent wreath.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (☞ Amen.)**

FIRST READING (☞ Thanks be to God.)

Isaiah 35:1-10

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

***GOSPEL VERSE**



***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 11:2-11

(after the reading of the Gospel)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

***PEACE (☩ And also with you.)**

OFFERING

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.



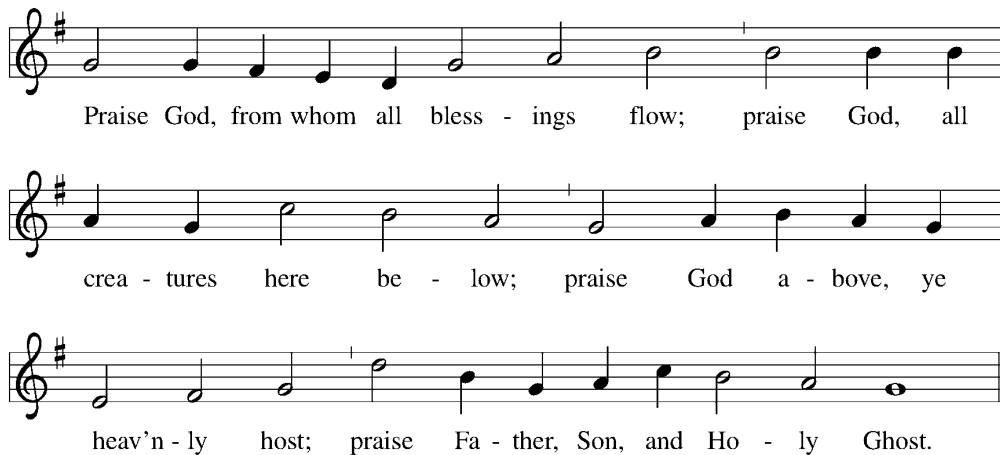
ANTHEM

*People Look East
-Butler*

Worship Choir

***OFFERTORY CANTICLE**

ELW 885



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

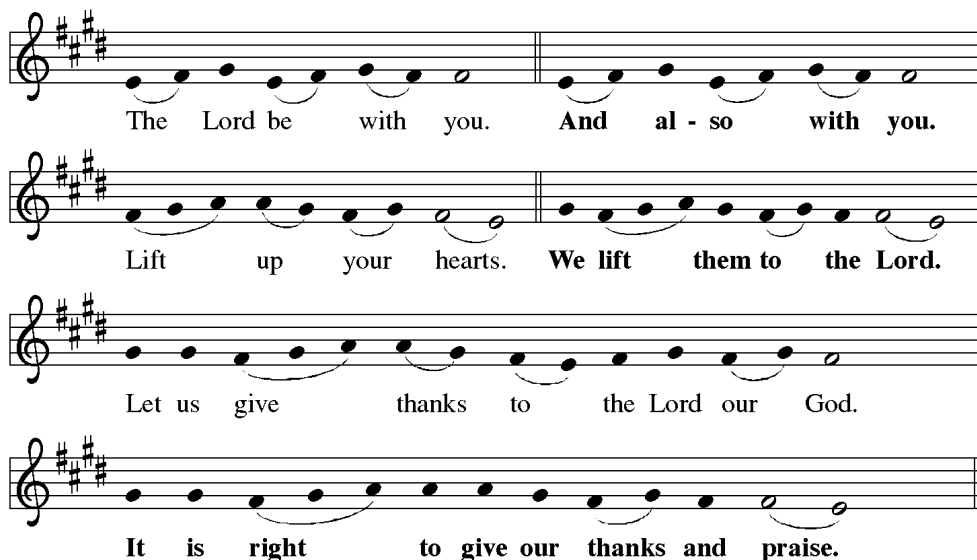
Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (📖 Amen.)**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

***SURSUM CORDA**

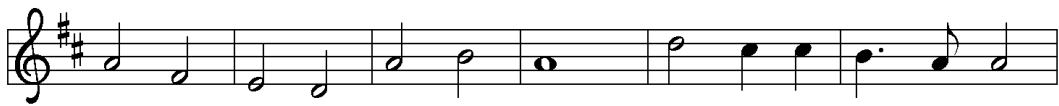


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

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

***SANCTUS**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (℣ Amen.)**

***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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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. There is a gluten free and grape juice option available if you need this. Return your empty glass to the baskets. Children and those not ready to receive communion this day may receive a blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC: *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming)*

– Mary Beth Bennett

Kirk Denton, organ

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING** (📖 Amen.)

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** (📖 Amen.)

***BENEDICTION** (📖 Amen.)

***SENDING HYMN**

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

***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. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Merton (Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding)*

Kirk Denton, organ

– David Thorne

Servants in God's House

December 14, 2025

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Lee Ropp (Greeter)
Bruce McIntosh (Acolyte)
Bob Rockwell (Asst Minister)
Gene Appleby (Lector)
Kenneth Basler (Head Usher)
Carrie Balser (Sanctuary Usher)
Bruce McIntosh (Comm Asst)
Doug Davis (Sound System/Livestream)

Servants in God's House

December 21, 2025

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Bob Rockwell (Greeter)
Clinton Appleby (Acolyte)
Clinton Appleby (Asst Minister)
John Gruner (Lector)
Wayne Ahalt (Head Usher)
Micael Ferguson (Sanctuary Usher)
Shirley Ferguson (Comm Asst)
(Sound System/Livestream)

Our Mission

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



Our Vision

Zion aspires to be a
church where all are
welcomed and loved;
God's purpose for each of
us is found; and lives are
transformed.

2025 Ministry Priorities

Leadership

Called by the Spirit to be transformed as God's loving people, the Council will continue to discern where God is calling Zion in its defining of vision. We will be open to new ways and opportunities God is calling us to serve beyond our building in sharing Christ's love. We will support one another in our ministries as we share cherished traditions and try new things.

Communication

Celebrating new tools we have learned to communicate information, we will hone and plan strategies to more effectively use them to share what God is doing at Zion. We will use these tools and new avenues to share how God's love is nurturing and changing us.

Relationship Building

With Jesus as our example and guide, we will grow in building relationships with one another and those beyond our building through practicing welcome and invitation. We rejoice and celebrate our generational diversity. We will practice grace and understanding as we make mistakes. We will focus on serving one another in love, especially those in need and who are often forgotten.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of our 37th wedding anniversary, by Bryon and Stacey Black



Zion Prayer List 12-14-2025

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

Diana Fath, Pat McIntosh, Shirley Hyssong, Grace Blumeauer, Ronnie Kinna, Carrie Basler, John Hughes, Linda Kinna-Engel, Dave Gouker, Richard Brandenburg, Ruth Brant, Vicki Ringwelski, Elsie Warnock, David Shupe, Meredith Kinna, George Engel, Jo Ahalt, Glenn Little, Sandy Bidle, Catherine Brown, Tristan Swiney, J. Richard Staples, Pastor Diane Day, Beverly Smith, The Gunsallus Family, Samn Huffer, Pat Hansen, Eric Kinna, Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo

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.*

The Rev. Diane Day—Co-Pastor

ext. 202, pastordiane@zionmiddletown.org

The Rev. Matt Day—Co-Pastor

ext. 209, pastormatt@zionmiddletown.org

Deb Reichelt – Office Business Manager

ext. 204, treasurer@zionmiddletown.org

Kaye Derr-Financial Secretary

financialsecretary@zionmiddletown.org

Matt Puziss - Director Contemporary Worship Team

mattpuziss@gmail.com

Katelyn McClinton- Director of Traditional Music Ministry

katelynmccclinton@gmail.com

Kirk Denton- Organist

kirk.denton@rhosymedre.com

Emily Hopson – Children's Choir Director

emilyfulton1031@gmail.com

Liturgy and hymns reprinted from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2012 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # SAS004159. Hymns and other music Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, license #A-716392-A. All rights reserved. Songs and other Music Reprinted with permission under CCLI License # 837681. All rights reserved. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.