

Zion Lutheran Church



***11a.m. Traditional Worship
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024***

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

*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.

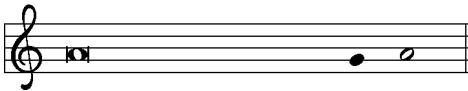
*GATHERING HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

*APOSTOLIC GREETING (R) **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.



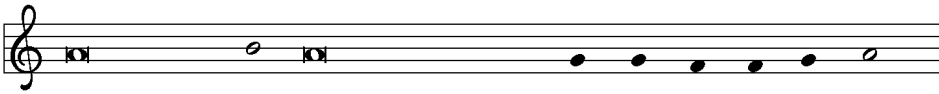
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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**

The Spirit and the church cry out:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his appearance pray:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole creation pleads:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray.

God our Savior, nothing is impossible for you. Prepare our hearts to rejoice in your glorious advent. Amen.

We will now sing verse 4 of Light One Candle, hymn 240, as we light three candles on our Advent wreath.

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

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (📖 Amen.)**

FIRST READING (📖 Thanks be to God.)

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

PSALMODY

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ **my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ **you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.**

⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ **You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³ **You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**

⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵ **the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.**

***GOSPEL VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:39-45

(after the reading of the Gospel)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR WESLEY DAVISSON HOPSON

p. 227

***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

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

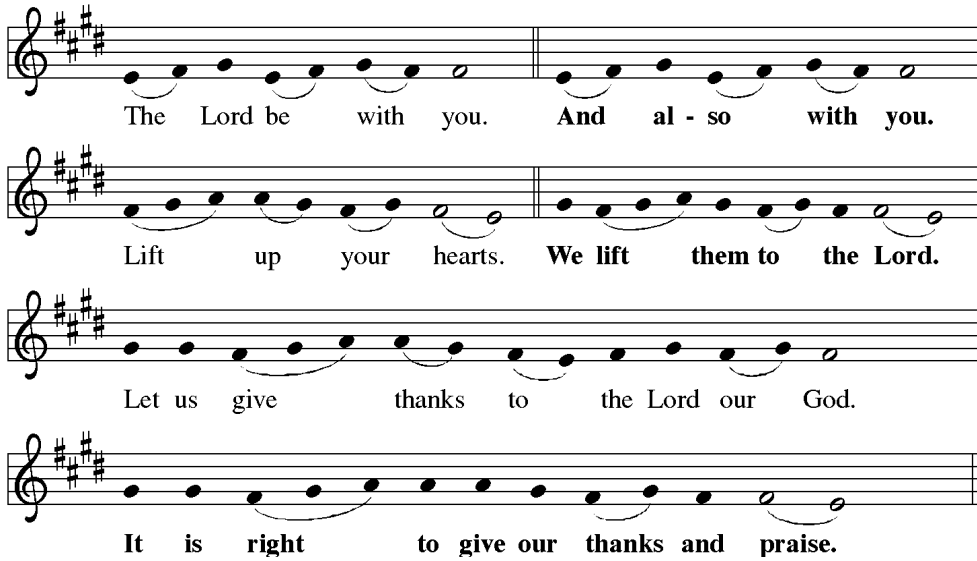
Worship Choir

-Vaughan Williams

***OFFERTORY PRAYER (☩ Amen.)**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*SURSUM CORDA

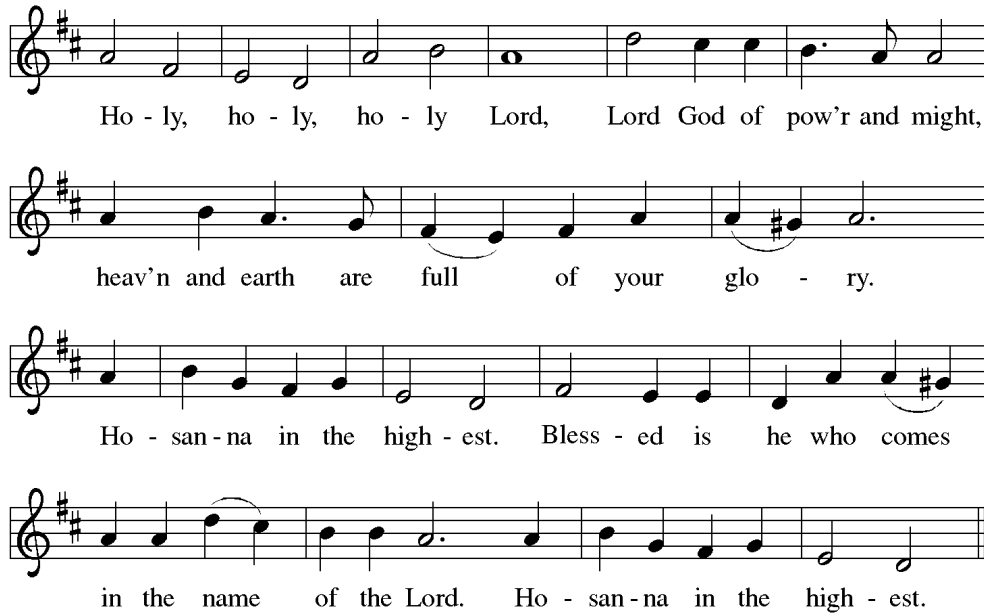


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.

*EUCHARISTIC 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

Kirk Denton

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (℞ Amen.)**

***BENEDICTION (℞ Amen.)**

***SENDING HYMN**

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

***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

Kirk Denton

Servants in God's House

December 22, 2024

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Bob Rockwell (Greeter)
Clinton Appleby (Acolyte)
Gene Appleby (Asst Minister)
Bob Rockwell (Lector)
Lee Ropp (Head Usher)
Michael Ferguson (Sanctuary Usher)
Linda Sanders (Comm Asst)
Barry Poffinberger (Sound System)
Bob Staples (Live Stream)

Servants in God's House

December 29, 2024

11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Sue Whitter (Greeter)
Bruce McIntosh (Acolyte)
Gene Appleby (Asst Minister)
John Gruner (Lector)
Jim Huckleberry (Head Usher)
Leslie Lent-Santora (Sanctuary Usher)
John Gruner (Comm Asst)
Barry Poffinberger (Sound System)
9 am (Live Stream)

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.

Leadership

We will work on developing new and existing leaders to carry on the mission of the gospel and the congregation who effectively plan, execute, and communicate. In addition, discern the God-given mission and vision of Zion through, prayer, planning and future-thinking. We intend to develop and better utilize our committees and ministry teams to deal with the needs and challenges of the congregation so that council can focus on the mission and visionary work.

Communication

We will strengthen our communication strategies and techniques to make sure we keep the congregation and other vested parties informed of our work and plans. For example, the encouragement of timely two-way communication at all levels of congregational life.

Relationship Building

United around Jesus, we will strengthen relationships among ministry teams, committees, and individuals in the congregation to foster mutual care and support of one another such as aiding in conflict resolution when it arises.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our Lord and Savior's birth given by Barry and Jo Ann Poffinberger



Zion Prayer List 12-22-2024

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

Kathi Hayter, Junior Wiles, J. Richard Staples, John Rudy, Noelle, Beverly Bidle, Samn Huffer, Patricia Pettingall, Family of Dennison Plumbing, Grace Blumenauer, Ruth Ann Derr, Barry B., Gail G., Lucretia Reaves, Katana Lewis, Debby Knipple, Larry DiGiulio, Ken Young, Carol O'Brien, Mike Fath, Kris Marcantonio, John Lettiere, Jr., Ursula Powell, Pat Hansen, Jane Nalborczyk, Eric Kinna, Ronnie Kinna, Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Gary, Kay Wachter, Michael Easton, Tristan Vail, Beth Smith, Lorene Huffer, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Skippy Zimmerman, Sarah Gladhill, Ruby Pyles, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo

Deaths: John Brunner, Cheryl, Lori Webber

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- Interim Director of Traditional
Music Ministry**

katelynmccclinton@gmail.com

Kirk Denton- Interim Organist

Emily Hopson – Children’s Choir Director

emilyfulton1031@gmail.com