

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2022, at 10 a.m. The Gathering of God's Christmas People Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church & via Zoom

Welcome friends and guests: As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Worship Service: In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, fill out a yellow guest card and put it in the offering so we can welcome you. Join us after worship for fellowship and food.

Holy Communion: The Sacrament is offered to all worshiping with us. Zoom congregants, have your bread/wafer and juice/wine ready. Those worshiping in person may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing instead.

Other Information: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary, our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Vicar Lisa Rygiel at the church (719-846-7785) or contact her via email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

~Gathering~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude: Christmas Carol Medley by Melodie Lanosga

Pastoral Welcome, Christmas Greeting, and Gathering of Prayers

Opening Carol: #275 Angels from the Realms of Glory



- An gels, from the realms of glo ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a bid ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa ges, leave your con tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi sions beam a far;
- 4 All cre a tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa ther, Spir it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light. seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star. ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Call to Worship

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (*Luke 2:10-11*)

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors! (*Luke 2:14*)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christmas Candle

Carol: #276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Opening Prayer

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Canticle for Christmas

Blessed are you, O Christ, our God;

you were before time began, and came to the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Son of righteousness;

you shine with the Father's love and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;

born a child you shared our humanity.

Blessed are you, son of David; born to rule,

Blessed are you, heavenly King;

With all the voices of heaven we celebrate your coming as our Savior. Let heaven and earth shout their praises

With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth. **Praise and glory to you, O Lord Jesus Christ.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from Isaiah.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

A reading from Titus.

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



brings,

all he



Joy - ful, all you na-tions, rise; Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Mild he lays his glo - ry by,

to

Light and life

join the tri-umph of the skies; Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty! born that we no more may die,

ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, Pleased as man with us to dwell, born to raise each child of earth,

"Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!

born to give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Gospel: John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

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

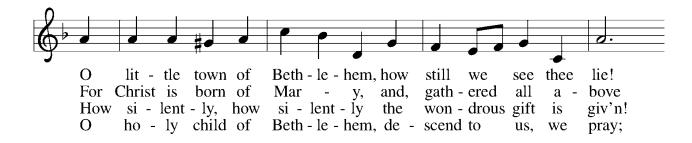
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A Modern Christmas Story for All Ages -- Pastor Kate Schlechter

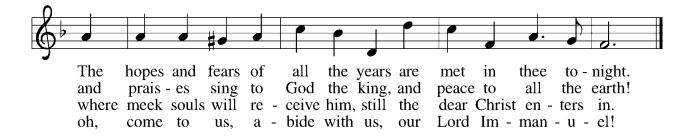
Carol: #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem" (next page)





A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. out our sin, and cast en - ter in, be born in us to - day.





Invitation to Prayer

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Prayers of Intercession

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet, renew its resources, and care of the environment in our own area.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need especially The Way Ministry and ACTS. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, warmth, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are ill, troubled or grieving especially...

God of grace, hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christmas be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christmas Peace with one another.

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Christmas Offering

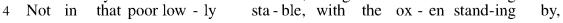
An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory Carol: #269 Once in Royal David's City (verses 1 & 4)



- 1 Once in roy al Da vid's cit y stood a low ly cat tle shed,
- 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;





moth-er ba - by in a man - ger for where a laid her his bed: sta - ble, and his cra - dle was shel-ter was and his a stall; gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a for that child so dear and bove: heav - en, set at God's right hand shall see him: but in



Mar - y that moth-er mild, child. was Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle and meek and low-ly, lived on with the poor earth our Sav-ior ho-ly. his chil - dren on place where he is and he leads to the gone. there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

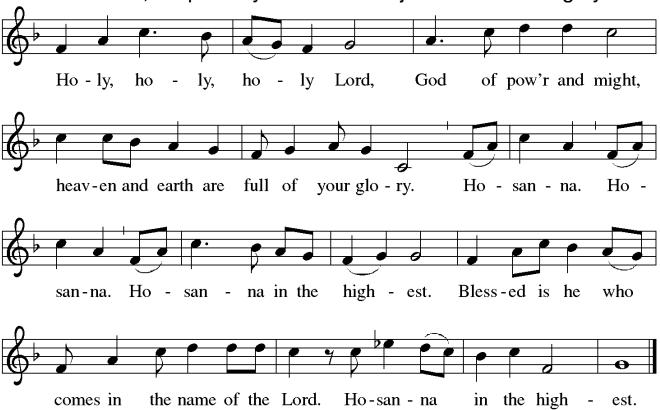
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good. All are welcome!

Communion Carol: #283 O Come All Ye Faithful



Communion Blessing

May the body & blood of Jesus, strengthen us, preserve us, and unite us in Love. **Amen.**

Communion Prayer

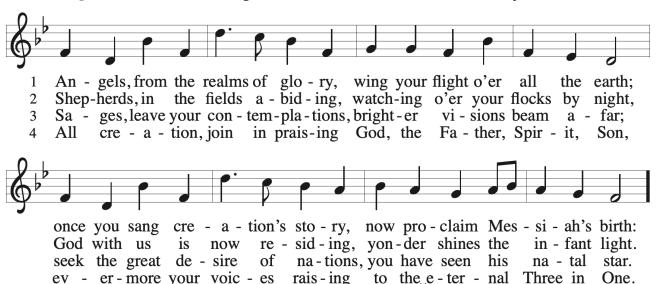
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements & Special Blessings

Sending Carol: #275 Angels from the Realms of Glory





Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Blessing

May the Christ who by his birth gathered us all into divine fellowship, fill you with the sweetness of peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: In the name of Christ. Amen.

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