



First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2025
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

Welcome Friends and Guests: The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthen our faith in the promises of God.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Becky McNeil & Kathy Broman

Musicians – Mark Nelson & Becky McNeil

Ushers – Steve & Carol Hanson

Communion – Kathy Broman & Cheryl Leef



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Worship: In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please fill out a yellow guest card and put it in the offering plate so we have a record of your visit. *Come back and worship with us each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Other Information: Large print bulletins are available upon request from the ushers. Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary; our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa Rygiel at the church (719-846-7785) or contact her via email: zionsluth@gmail.com. Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Advent Worship

God of Light, bless this Advent candle.

Hurry and send your spirit to us so that, noticed and unnoticed, we may give warmth and light to each person we meet this holy season.

Advent Call to Worship: #240 Light One Candle

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another... Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

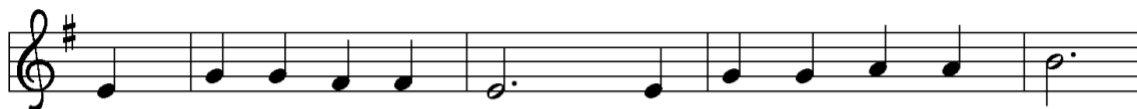
God, who is rich in mercy...that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: #438 My Lord, What a Morning

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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with God and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness with- in your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 24:35-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 24.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Apostles Creed

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

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

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, today we pray for...and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

As evident through all of creation, God has given freely to us as we freely give now. Our 5th Sunday Offering is dedicated to Trinidad's Coalition for the Unhoused.

*You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:
https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741.*

Offertory: #253 He Came Down, vs. 1

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

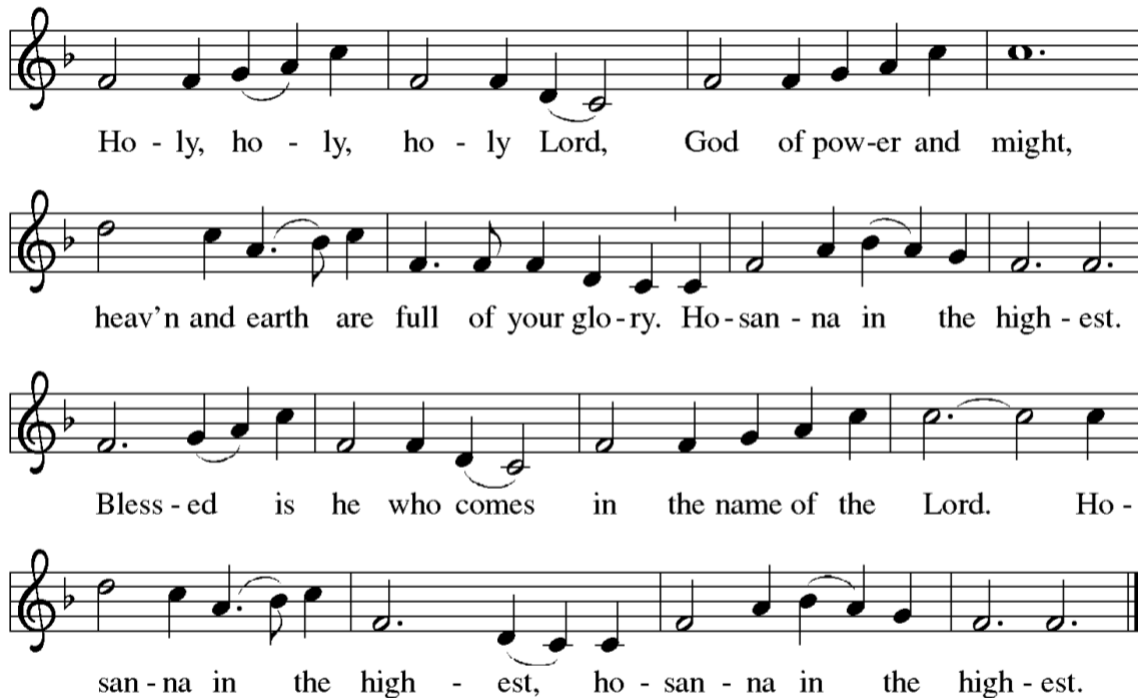
The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available. God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.

Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.

Communion Hymn: #479 We Come to the Hungry Feast

Communion Hymn: #466 In the Singing

Song of Thanksgiving



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Communion Prayer

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

The deeper the darkness the brighter the light shines. For love refuses to be extinguished by despair. Resilience and hope cannot be quenched while the light of love burns steadily, fueled by courage and by compassion. Look for the light and there you will find love. And may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #259 Fling Wide the Door

Dismissal

Go in peace, give warmth and light to each person we meet this holy season.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

Today's Flowers: In gratitude for Norine Hazen and her leadership on Zion's food ministries, especially the community Thanksgiving dinner.

- + Fifth Sunday Offering:** Whenever there are five Sundays in a month, Zion's collects a special offering for various causes and ministries. Today's 5th Sunday Offering benefits Trinidad's Coalition for the Unhoused. Please consider donating to this program, particularly at a time when there is so much need. You also may donate using Tithley.
- + Hanging of the Greens:** After worship, we will begin our sanctuary decorating with the hanging of the greens and tree setup; plan to join us. Also, stay to join us for Fellowship time. In subsequent weeks, we will hang the Chrismon ornaments.
- + Advent Soup Suppers:** We will begin our Advent soup suppers Wednesday night, December 3 at 6 pm. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.
- + The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. each Sunday, Zion's welcomes the Way ministry to our fenced lower yard as they offer food and worship to the unhoused and others in need.
- + Children's Choir:** The final Children's Choir practice for 2025 is at 3 p.m. today.
- + Yoga:** At 5:30 p.m. Friday, join Cora Gardiner for yoga in the Fellowship Hall.
- + Thank You Notes:** It has been a busy week. We are grateful to everyone who helped with our community Thanksgiving, especially at a time when the need is so great. Through their work and dedication, we were able to serve meals to hundreds of people. In addition, we offer thanks to those who helped with Peggy Gustafson's memorial service, especially Julie Wersal for coordinating the meal and the Worship & Music committee for the lovely liturgy and music.
- + Winter Coat Drive:** Today, Zion's concludes its drive to provide coats, socks, mittens, hats, scarves, blankets, etc. for the Way Ministry to redistribute to those in need of additional winter warmth. If you have items to share, please bring them today.
- + Toys for Tots:** Terri Watson again will be the Marine Corp representative for Toys for Tots in Las Animas County. She has placed a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for new, unwrapped toys. Monetary donations also are welcome. The donations deadline is Dec. 8. Terri says that baby toys (infant to 3 yoa) are particularly needed.
- + Giving Tree:** Again, this year, Zion's will partner with First National Bank to support Santa's Gift Tree. Area seniors have written letters with gift wishes (up to \$25) and Zion's is one of many local groups and individuals working to fulfill the requests. Jo Moss will have the letters available on Sunday, Nov. 30. Wrapped gifts should be returned to the First National Bank main lobby or to Jo no later than Monday, Dec. 15.