

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21, 2025  
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Becky McNeil  
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil  
Ushers – T.M. Garner & Cherie Holder  
Communion – Julie Morris & Jeff Morris



**Worship:** In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book so that 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, and our White Elephant Gift Exchange.

**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](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com). Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: [zionsluth.org](http://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.

**This is the time for caring and sharing, a time for smiling and singing, a time for rejoicing in life itself! Let us open our hearts fully to others. Let our faces radiate the joy of Your coming so that everyone we meet will know of you and the gift of life you bring.**

O Jesus, our hearts are open. **Amen.**

**Advent Call to Worship:** #240 Light One Candle, vs. 4

**Confession & Forgiveness**

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

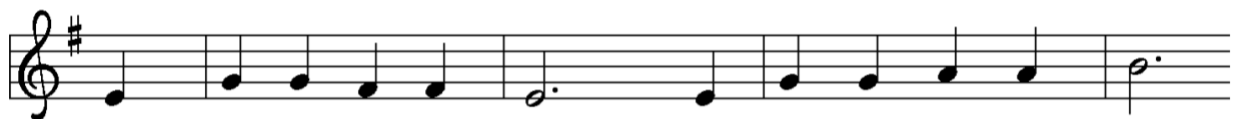
**Gathering Hymn:** #257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs 1, 2, 3 & 7

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

**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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

## **First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsive Reading:** Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup> **O Lord God of hosts,**  
**how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. **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 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 1. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

**Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel**

**Hymn of the Day:** #265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

### **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**

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah’s coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, lift those who share their gratitude, especially today we pray for...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support, especially those who have been separated from their children through unfair immigration enforcement. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **receive 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. Ways to give are listed in the bulletin.

**Offertory:** #253 He Came Down, vs. 3

**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...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...Do this for the remembrance of me.

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: #245 Creator of the Stars of Night**

**Communion Hymn: #262 Wait for the Lord**

### 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**

Go now in peace. When God comes to you, may you be blessed.

In God's calling, may you find purpose.

In Christ's Incarnation, may you find comfort.

In the Holy Spirit's promptings, may you find challenge.

In the face of the abundance of God, may you find life in all its fullness.

So, go now to journey to Bethlehem with a loving God, ☩ in the companionship of the incarnate Christ, and in the lasting embrace of the Spirit's comfort. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** #267 Joy to the World

#### **Dismissal**

Go in love, give warmth and light to each person you meet this holy season.

**Thanks be to God.**



*~Announcements~*

- + **Fellowship:** Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation, followed by the White Elephant Christmas Exchange.
- + **Advent Soup Suppers:** The next supper will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 17. Sign-up sheets to bring soup, bread, or dessert are in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Blue Christmas Worship:** Zion's Lutheran is offering a Blue Christmas service for the entire Trinidad area at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 in the sanctuary, 510 Pine Street. Zion's invites all who desire to honor their losses and lift up their concerns in a safe and sacred space. The worship service is a quiet and contemplative experience that respects those who are walking through grief and struggling with loss and sadness.
- + **Beware:** The Zion's email has been hacked. Do not respond to generic email or text requests ostensibly from Pr. Lisa or from Zion's Lutheran. If you are concerned with a message you received or are unsure as to whether to respond, call Pr. Lisa or Jo Moss first or send an email to the 5-Loaves email account at [5loaveszions@gmail.com](mailto:5loaveszions@gmail.com), which is not affected by hack
- + **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. When weather makes dining outside difficult, the meal will be moved to the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Christmas Eve Worship:** The Zion's Christmas Eve worship begins at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.
- + **Christmas Eve Invitation:** The First United Methodist Church – Trinidad, at 216 Broom St., will have an 11 p.m. Lessons & Carol Service on Christmas Tree. All are welcome.
- + **Gifts of Giving:** Thank you to everyone who contributed to both the Toys for Tots and the FNB Giving Tree programs this holiday season. You do make a difference!
- + **Church Directory Updates:** Julie Wersal is working on the Zions 2026 Church Directory. She placed a copy of the 2025 directory in a pink binder in the Fellowship Hall. Please take time to look at that directory and make any changes or updates to your information. If you would like to be added to the directory, there are pages in the back of the binder to add your information. Also, if you would like a new photo, please indicate that in your review as well.
- + **5-Loaves Assistance Needed:** We will be delivering 5-Loaves meals on Saturday Dec. 27 and need both assistance with deliveries and preparations. Preparations will begin at 8 a.m. on Dec. 26 and deliveries will be ready at 9 a.m. on Dec. 27. If you can help, please let Jo Moss, Norine Hazen, or Terri Watson know.
- + **Altar Flowers:** The 2026 Flower Chart is on the door of the Robing Room in the Sanctuary. Please write your name and a few words identifying your donation. A donation of \$35 is requested for flower and can be given using the options outlined for offering.
- + **Save the Dates:**

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Evening Worship — 7 p.m.  
Feb. 1 — Annual Congregational Meeting (after worship)

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Benediction: from The Church of Scotland – 21 December Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A, at

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/weekly-worship-2025-december/21-december-forth-sunday-of-advent-year>

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