



The Christ Mass on the Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2025

7 p.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

Welcome friends and guests: In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Serving this Evening:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel & Becky McNeil

Musicians – Mark Nelson, John & Charlotte Strecker-Baseler & Keilley O'Hara

Ushers – John Rygiel & Mike McNeil

Worship Service: 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.

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.

Welcome & Invocation

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

Lighting the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

During this season of Advent, each week we have pointed the way to Christmas. Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope, are the touchstones in our journey preparing our hearts. This season, these candles have reminded us of the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see. **We are grateful for all the days carrying us to this holy night.**

And so, we come to Christmas once again, as have those before us through the centuries, the mighty cloud of witnesses who have lighted our way with their lives of faith, hope and love against all odds. **May the lights we burn tonight warm us with memories of their inspiration and their aspirations.**

Peace, joy, hope and love -- which never come easy and are easily lost -- all come together in the liberating spirit of God. **May God's light heal our lives and world.**

We light these candles once again in this season which reminds us how to live most fully all our days. **We light these candles to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world.**

God-with-Us, Emmanuel, we open ourselves to you this night, to become those who help to shine that light of Christ wherever we are -- in our lives, our families, our communities, and our world. **We light these candles to proclaim the coming of the light into this world, and to invite others to come behold the one born our king!**

Processional Hymn: #283 Oh Come, All Ye Faithful, vs. 1-3

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be end-less peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn: #279 O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs. 1

Responsive Reading: Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Hymn: #270 Hark! The Herald the Angels Sing

Second Reading: Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hymn: Away in the Manger – the Rev. Charlotte Strecker-Baseler

Third Reading: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: ‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime – the Revs. John & Charlotte Strecker-Baseler

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Homily: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn: #300 The First Noel

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Christmas 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.

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: Keilley O'Hara

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.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **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.

The Gospel of the Incarnation

As you receive your light, remember that the lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

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 Prayers

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age. **Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, disenfranchised, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity. **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh. **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

Hymn of Light: #281 Silent Night, Holy Night!



	<i>Stil - le Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li-ge Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les schläft,</i>
1	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	All is calm,
2	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	Shep - herds quake
3	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	Son of God,



<i>ein - sam wacht</i>	<i>nur das trau - te,</i>	<i>hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.</i>
all is bright	round yon vir - gin	moth - er and child.
at the sight;	glo - ries stream	from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light	ra - diant beams	from your ho - ly face,



<i>Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki-gen Haar,</i>	<i>schlaf in himm - li - scher</i>
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,	sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n-ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,	Je - sus, Lord, at your



<i>Ruh,</i>	<i>schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.</i>
peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

~Sending~

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

Blessing & Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. 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.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

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