

Zion Lutheran

**Mission: Creating Community Through
God's Love and Guidance**



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

ORDER OF SERVICE

(The assembly speaks the bold print)

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #631 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

BLESSING AND LIGHTLING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Dorn Family

ADVENT WREATH HYMN#240

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
verse 2 only

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.
Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation’s bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85: 1-2, 8-13

Sung to the hymn "Loving Spirit"

Lord, You showed Your land Your favor and restored us
bountifully

All our sin with grace You covered and forgave iniquity.
Show us now Your lovingkindness, Grant us Your salvation,
Lord.

I will listen to what God says: Peace to those who Him
adore. Let them not return to folly.

for salvation is quite near; In our land may the Lord's glory
dwell with those who do God fear.

Love and truth have met together, Righteousness and
peace kiss: then

faithfulness springs forth from earth and righteousness
looks down from heav'n.

For the Lord will give what's good and then our land its
fruit will yield;

Righteousness will go before Him, Make His steps a path
revealed.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 8

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

SERMON

Pastor Jake

HYMN OF THE DAY# 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

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 INTERCESSION

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

PREFACE

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Setting 8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

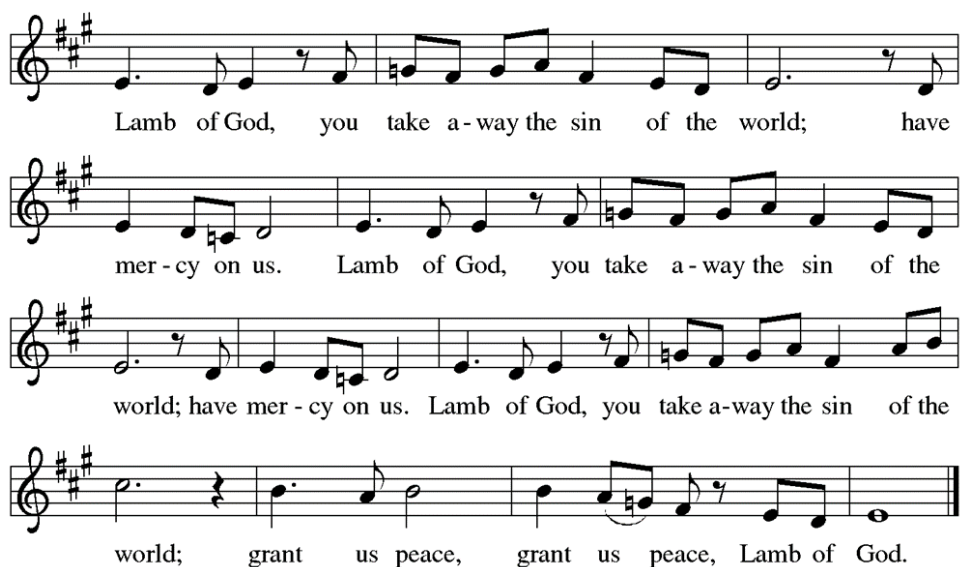
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LAMB OF GOD

Setting 8



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN #260

“The King Shall Come”

TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #247

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Creating Community through God’s Love and Guidance —
thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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Welcome!

We invite visitors to complete the card in the pew and put it in the collection basket. Thank You!

Please ask an usher for a Large Print or Children's Bulletin

Announcements

Volunteers are needed for set-up/clean-up/desserts for the Advent Soup Suppers. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Advent services will be on Dec. 13 & 20. Soup Suppers will be from 5:00-6:15pm. Soups are being provided by Jacobs Meat Market. Dec. 13 Soups-Cheesy Broccoli & Hamburger Veggie. Dec. 20 Soups-Chicken Wild Rice & Chili.

The Advent service will start at 6:30pm.

Dec. 13-INVITATION: We encounter God through Invitation. Reading is from Mark 1: 1-8.

Dec. 20-VOCATION: We encounter God in our vocation to serve others. Reading is from John 1: 6-8 19-28.

Here is the advent wreath lighting schedule:

Third Sunday of Advent (December 17): Lily Gruselle

Christmas Eve (December 24—4 pm): Alexa Rusch

Christmas Eve (December 24-7 pm): Charlee Weiland

Today is the Affordable Housing Town Hall Discussion in the Fellowship Hall **from 10:30-11:15 am** to get an update, ask questions and complete an activity designed to clarify what's most important to you with regard to the affordable housing project. The same discussion and activity will be available during the Advent Soup Suppers on December 13 and 20 at 5:30-6:15 pm. Feel free to arrive at 5:00 pm for the meal and stay for the discussion. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jake or Kandie Wilz.

Join us on December 17th during the 9:00 a.m. worship service for this year's Christmas Pageant put on by the participants in Youth Formation. We've got Mary, we've got Joseph, and a baby Jesus... we just need you. We hope to see you there!

Today there will be a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote on the approval of funds to replace the elevator at Zion Place. This will not impact Zion’s budget in any way, but the expenditure does require congregational authorization. Please plan to attend this important meeting to make your voice heard as we move forward in keeping Zion Place a vital part of the community.

Bob Page, a long-time member of Zion, died on Sunday, December 3rd. The Visitation will be on Saturday, December 30th (1-3 pm) with the Memorial Service at 3 pm at Valley Funeral Home, 2211 N. Richmond St in Appleton. Pastor Jake will officiate. Please keep the family of Bob Page in your prayers.

Zion's Giving Tree is in the back of the sanctuary. We are supporting Harbor House & Pillars. Please return an unwrapped gift with the tag by Jan. 7th. Thank you for your support.

In recognition and celebration of the wonderful ministry to Zion by Pastor Jake Czarnik-Niemeyer and Mike Dismer, please plan on attending a reception to be held on Sunday, December 31st during the fellowship hour. We would ask that you sign up on the sheets in the narthex. if you wish to donate toward a recognition gift for the pastors, please put it into an envelope marking it as such or contributing through the church office. Tentative menu is for Egg Bake, sausages, pastries, fruit.

Monday, December 11	Finance Meeting 6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 12	Office Volunteer: Janice Staedt Advent Bible Study 10:00 am chapel Staff Meeting 10:00 am-11:00 am
Wednesday, December 13 Theme: Invitation- We encounter God through invitation Mark 1:1-8 Advent Meal 5:00-6:15 pm Worship Service 6:30 pm	Second Week of Advent Pastor Jake Cantor: Cheryl Meyer Musician: Pam Keane
Thursday, December 14	Office Volunteer: Sue Joosten Historic Central Neighborhood Potluck 6:00pm
Sunday, December 17 Sunday School Christmas Pageant Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps126 1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28 Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am followed by Coffee Hour No Sunday School or Confirmation	Third Sunday of Advent Pastor Jake presiding, no sermon Assisting Minister: Deb Reis Acolyte: Lily Gruselle Musician: Heather Watney Opens: Gene Wiese Closes: Gwen Schwandt Fellowship: Colleen Malchow, Gail Hunter