**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

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

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE**

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope.

We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to

bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the LORD. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle in Hope.

**On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.**

(Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Instrumental)

**OPENING PRAYER**

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare a pathway for your Christ. By his coming speak peace to your people and turn our hearts toward you, that your saving grace and splendid glory may dwell in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone, we have sinned.**

**In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit.**

**Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you.

As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Gathering Song“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” ELW 436**

 

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A reading from Jeremiah.

14The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 25:1-10**

1To **|** you, O Lord,
  I lift **|** up my soul.
 2**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,**
  **nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
 3Let none who look to you be **|** put to shame;
  rather let those be put to shame **|** who are treacherous.
 4**Show me your | ways, O Lord,**
  **and teach | me your paths.**
 5Lead me in your **|** truth and teach me,
  for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all **|** the day long.
 6**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,**
  **for they are from | everlasting.**
 7Remember not the sins of my youth and **|** my transgressions;
  remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- **|** ness, O Lord.

 8**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;**
  **therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
 9You lead the low- **|** ly in justice
  and teach the low- **|** ly your way.
 10**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness**
  **to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

**Second Reading**  **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

A reading from 1Thessalonias.

9How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
  11Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia**

**Gospel** **Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 25“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
  29Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

  34“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW 257 Vs 1-4**



**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. We pray especially for Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Jacob Lehman, and Rev. Ken Johnson. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering song**



**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good. You may receive your communion elements.

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace.

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

God, the Source of glory, God, the Word of life, God, the Spirit of truth

☩ bless you all, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Fling Wide the Door ” ELW 259**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

 **Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person: Ken Heise**

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, Wednesday, December 1 at 8AM
* **Newsletter deadline:** Wednesday, December 1 evening
* Worship planning, 4:30 Thursday December 2

**Save the date**

* Dec 15: Longest night, in person, 2 service at 1 PM and 7 PM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Newsletter Deadline**: The December newsletter has been pushed back a week due to the holiday last week. Please have all articles to the secretary by Wednesday, December 1. If you’d like to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you have not already.
* **Heating:** Now that we are in the heating season, please close all the doors to the sanctuary and fellowship hall when they are not in use. The Sunday School classroom doors need to stay open, as does the door from the Fireside Lounge to the Sunday School area. Thank you.
* **Christmas Basket:s:** Zion is once again participating in the Lakewood Community Council Christmas Basket Project.  A Thrivent Grant has been received for Christmas gifts for 7 eight year old girls and for 6 seven year old boys.  There will be limited money to purchase some hats, mittens and socks for children.

The need from Zion now is to purchase **additional hats, mittens and socks for children.**  Additionally, money is needed to purchase other items for the Christmas boxes for needy families. Please give generously for the need is great.

The Christmas decorated donation boxes will be located either (on the east end of the Fellowship Hall, near the mailboxes, or on the east end of the steps as you enter from the east.)  For more information, please look in the November Newsletter. Thank you for your generosity!