**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2022**

**Theme: We Hear the Advent Angels**

**\*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: Joy**

**Read by: The Johnson/Hokanson Families**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God’s dream of a peaceful world. (Light Candles). Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the Wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing “Joy to the World, the Lord is come!” We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us. We light this candle in Joy. (Light Candle)

**On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.**

(Verse Three)



**OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. God of our salvation, you speak through angels and prophets, telling us: “Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you.” Open our eyes and unstop our ears, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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“Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW 264**



**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.**

**DIALOGUE**

**Surely God is my salvation;**

**I will trust, and will not be afraid,**

**For the Lord God is my strength, and my might;**

**And has become my salvation.**

**A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,**

**And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

**The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;**

**His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.**

***(Based on Isaiah 11:1-3; 12:2)***

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
  the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
 like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly,  
  and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
  the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
  the majesty of our God.  
  
 3Strengthen the weak hands,  
  and make firm the feeble knees.  
 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
  “Be strong, do not fear!  
 Here is your God.  
  He will come with vengeance,  
 with terrible recompense.  
  He will come and save you.”  
  
 5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
  and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
 6then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
  and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
  and streams in the desert;  
 7the burning sand shall become a pool,  
  and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
  the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
  
 8A highway shall be there,  
  and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
 the unclean shall not travel on it,  
  but it shall be for God’s people;  
  no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
 9No lion shall be there,  
  nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
  but the redeemed shall walk there.  
 10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
  and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
  they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
  and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 146:5-10**

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob **|** for their help,  
  whose hope is in the **|** Lord their God;  
 6**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**  
  **who keeps promis- | es forever;**  
 7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to **|** those who hunger.  
  The Lord sets the **|** captive free.  
 8**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;**  
  **the Lord| loves the righteous.**   
 9The Lord cares **|** for the stranger;  
  the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way **|** of the wicked.  
 10**The Lord shall | reign forever,**  
  **your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading**   **James 5:7-10**

A reading from James.

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel** **Matthew 1:18-25**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

18Now 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 with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But 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. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:  
 23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
 and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254**



**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**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. We pray especially for Augustana Lutheran church in Tustin and Rev. Sharon Van Dam. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of Joseph, your message calls us to let go of our fears and place our trust in you. Sustain us in your hope as we await our Savior’s birth. God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**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.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**communion**

\**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” ELW 244**



**“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” ELW 251**



**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

Soon, the angel will announce to the shepherds, “Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy.” As we await the coming of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “People Look East ” ELW 248**



**Dismissal**

Fear not! Christ is coming soon.

**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

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

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

**Trustee: Dan Zylstra**

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

**Safety Person: Ken Heise**

**This week at Zion:**

* Council Meeting, 6:30 PM Tuesday, December 13
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, December 14
* Blue Christmas, 1 PM & 7 PM, Wednesday, December 14
* Zion’s turn to serve community dinner, 4-6 PM, Thursday, December 15

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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* **Community Dinners:** Zion is one of the churches that takes turns serving the community dinner held on Thursdays at the Central United Methodist Church.  And, it is Zion’s turn again on December 15th!  We are in need of volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean up the meal.  We are also responsible for providing a dessert to accompany the meal.  If you can help in any way, we need you!  Please let Martha Yoder know if you are able to help with this.
* **ELCA Good Gifts** - The Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall is decorated with a variety of Good Gift ornaments of animals and other needs.  You may take any of the ornaments you want.  You may include your donation on your offering envelopes and write what it is for. Thank you
* **Annual Meeting:** Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on January 15th.  This is an important meeting to elect officers and board members as well as other items requiring congregational approval.  One item for congregational consideration is approving an expenditure to upgrade and improve church signage.  There will be a potluck dinner following the meeting.  Mark your calendars and plan to be at Zion on January 15th.
* **The Board of Evangelism wants to thank**everyone who donated to Zion's collection for Manna's Market of socks and underwear.  Jayne Flanigan told board members that there is always a big need for these items as they must be new. For underwear, we collected 117 for ladies, 134 for girls, 13 for men and 74 for boys totaling 338.  For socks, we collected 35 pairs for ladies, 62 pairs for girls, 12 pairs for toddlers, 29 pairs for men and 28 pairs for boys totaling 166.  We also received 6 men's undershirts.  Thank you to Thrivent Financial for giving Jerry Engle a $250.00 grant that was used to purchase some of these items. All were packed on Giving Tuesday, November 29th and delivered to Manna's Market on Wednesday morning. Zion is blessed to be able to help others in our community.
* **All gifts given through the congregation to Lutheran World Relief** ( you can indicate your gift on your offering envelope) will be doubled up to $200,00 through December 31.