



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
 20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555  
 Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionrco@bright.net  
 Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM  
 Communion First and Third Sundays  
 Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor  
 Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionrco@bright.net

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Advent – Service of Readings and Carols**

Prelude  
 Tower Bells  
 Welcome  
 Announcements

*Visitors are encouraged to note their attendance by filling out the “Welcome” side (blue print) of the pew cards and putting the card into the offering plate near the entrance doors.*

*Worship Notes: Face covering must be used at all times. The congregation is invited to speak and sing the parts in bold type through a face covering.*

Opening Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**LSB 379**

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
 Joyful and triumphant!  
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold Him  
 Born the king of angels;

Son of the Father  
 Now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 O come, let us adore Him,  
 Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God  
 In the highest: (*Refrain*)

2 Highest, most holy,  
 Light of Light eternal,  
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
 Born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
 Word of the Father  
 Now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

(*Stand*)P: O Lord, open my lips,  
 P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.**  
**C: make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**All: Praise to you, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

P: Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: O come, let us worship Him.**

### Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 50:1-15

1 The Mighty One, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
**from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
**God shines forth.**

3 Our God comes; he does not keep silence;  
**before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.**

4 He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his  
people:

**5 "Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"**

6 The heavens declare his righteousness,  
**for God himself is judge!**

7 "Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
**O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.**

8 Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
**your burnt offerings are continually before  
me.**

9 I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.

**10 For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

11 I know all the birds of the hills,  
**and all that moves in the field is mine.**

12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
**for the world and its fullness are mine.**

13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

**14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,**

15 and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
**I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts  
by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Congregation sits*)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,  
that she has received from the LORD'S hand  
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the  
LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our  
God.

4 Every 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.

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

6 A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Go on up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”

10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection on Isaiah 40

Hymn

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

**LSB 347**

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. 3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Reflection on 1 Corinthians 4

Hymn

*Hark the Glad Sound*

**LSB 349**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11 (*Stand*)

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Reflection on Matthew

Hymn

*Joy to the World*

**LSB 387**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King:  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love.

Prayer of Zion Lutheran Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

O Lord, You have been favorable to Your people and restored the fortunes of Your Church by the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Fill us with rejoicing at all times and give reasonableness to our words and deeds, that all may recognize our Christian confidence in Your advent. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Almighty God, through Your Son, You bring to light the things hidden in darkness and disclose the purposes of the heart. Give Your Church faithful stewards of Your mysteries, servants of Christ who are trustworthy to proclaim You alone as Lord and Judge. Tend Your flock by Your Word and Spirit, that Your lambs may be gathered into Your arms and gently led to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith till life's end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You, even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us rulers who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live peaceably in godly quietness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, to our prayers [*especially for \_\_\_\_\_*]. Give healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry to You, that they may find comfort in Your enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, Heavenly Father, we ask you to preserve our families, our communities and nation, and all nations in this time of pandemic. Our human medicine and science are blessings from You, but our human knowledge and procedures are not perfect nor almighty. We ask You to bless us with healing and with love for one another. We ask You to build up faith in Your people so that we may rely on Your peace. Lord, In Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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*Please contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.*

Luther's Morning Prayer

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angels be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction for the Service of the Word

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
 Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
 Go tell it on the mountain  
 That Jesus Christ is born!

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
 When lo, above the earth  
 Rang out the angel chorus  
 That hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
 O'er silent flocks by night,  
 Behold, throughout the heavens  
 There shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

3 Down in a lonely manger  
 The humble Christ was born;  
 And God set us salvation  
 That blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

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