



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555  
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionco@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.zionco@bright.net

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Prelude  
Tower Bells and 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

*The Advent of Our King*

**LSB 331**

1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.

2 The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

(Stand) 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Confession and Absolution (*Congregation Stands*)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

### Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 111

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
**in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the works of the LORD,  
**studied by all who delight in them.**

3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work,  
**and his righteousness endures forever.**

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

**the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

5 He provides food for those who fear him;  
**he remembers his covenant forever.**

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,

**in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
**all his precepts are trustworthy;**

8 they are established forever and ever,  
**to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

9 He sent redemption to his people;  
**he has commanded his covenant forever.**

**Holy and awesome is his name!**

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

**all those who practice it have a good understanding.**

**His praise endures forever!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.      **C: And also with you.**

**All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might; that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading      Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (*Congregation sits*)

15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ 17 And the LORD said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading      Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading      Luke 1:39-56 (*Stand*)

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;  
 53 he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.  
 54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
 55 as he spoke to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”  
 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

*What Child Is This*

LSB 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
 While shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this is Christ the king,  
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
 The babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate  
 Where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
 The silent Word is pleading.  
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
 The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
 The babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
 Come, peasant king, to own Him.  
 The King of kings salvation brings;  
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
 Raise, raise the song on high,  
 The virgin sings her lullaby;  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
 The babe, the son of Mary!

Sermon “And blessed is she who believed...” Luke 1

Apostles' Creed (*Congregation stands*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
 And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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*

Almighty God, You gave faith to Your servants, Elizabeth and Mary, to trust and believe in Your Word concerning the babies they would bear, John and our Lord Jesus. So also give us faith to believe Your Word as we prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by John the Baptist. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You command us not to be anxious, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Give wisdom, health and success to the authorities that govern us and those newly elected. Give earthly peace in our time, even as Your Gospel gives eternally the peace that passes all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask You to guard and protect all who aid us in our daily lives. Keep them safe in this time of pandemic, winter weather and other dangers; we remember firefighters and emergency workers; law enforcement and military personnel; utility and transportation workers; food producers and retail workers; educators; counselors; and all medical workers. Thank you for all these our fellow citizens and bless them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask You to grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, give peace to the anxious and dying, and comfort all who mourn, \_\_\_\_\_. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the house of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

Martin 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 angel 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

O Lord, hear my prayer.           **And let my cry come to You.**  
Let us bless the Lord.           **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.   **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**LSB 361**

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Sermon "And blessed is she who believed..." Luke 1

1. Faith is ...
  - a. Hebrews 1:1-3. "1 **Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.** 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."
  - b. The faith of Elizabeth believed...  
The faith of Mary believed...
2. The blessedness of being in faith.
  - a. Presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ . In a trusting relationship...
  - b. Worries of our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ us.
3. The prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled, through faith the words of the \_\_\_\_\_ are heard and believed. (Christmas celebrations can fulfill the OT.)  
Such faith focus on God, not on \_\_\_\_\_ .  
Then everything in \_\_\_\_\_ 4:4-7 is possible.