



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 6, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Those taking Communion are asked to fill out the "Communion" side (black print) of the card. Completed cards may be also left on the pew seat.*

*Worship Notes: Face covering must be used at all times except for eating and drinking the Lord's Supper. Thus, the congregation is invited to speak and sing the parts in bold type through a face covering.*

*Those not taking the Lord's Supper may leave at the close of the Service of the Word as indicated in the bulletin.*

*Those taking the Lord's Supper may leave through any door immediately after their table is dismissed or return to their pew until the end of the Service of the Sacrament.*

Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come*

**LSB 350**

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

3 My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Confession and Absolution

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 85

1 LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

3 You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

**4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

5 Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all  
generations?

**6 Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

7 Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his  
saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

9 Surely his salvation is near to those who fear  
him,

**that glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
**and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
**and our land will yield its increase.**

**13 Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

**All: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading      Malachi 4

1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

4 “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 6 And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading      Romans 15:4-13

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”

10 And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

11 And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

12 And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Children's Message

### Sermon 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.

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made Man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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*

Lord of hosts, You have given all judgment over to the Son of Man, our incarnate Lord, Jesus Christ. Make us ever mindful of His coming, and keep us steadfast in the Word of Christ, that in accord with Him, we may live in harmony with one another and together glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, You send Your prophets and apostles, pastors and teachers in all times to call sinners to repentance and comfort them with the healing of the Sun of righteousness. Give strength to the congregations and pastors of Your Church, all church workers, chaplains and missionaries. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, preserve Your gift of marriage against the ravages of sin, the schemes of the devil and the raging of the world. Bless the couples and families of our congregation. Strengthen them in love and care for one another, and establish them on the foundation of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father of all concord, it is Your will that Your children live together in harmony. Defeat the plans of all who would stir up violence, destroy the weapons of those who delight in bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in our nation and our world. Be with all citizens who assist in many daily needs that they may rely on Your guidance and wisdom. Protect them in their duties at this time of

pandemic. We bring before You the president, congress and the supreme court; our state's governor and all state and local officials; military personnel; law-enforcement; firefighters; emergency and medical workers; educators and counselors; transportation workers and retail workers; and all food producers. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Search our hearts by Your Word and Spirit to root out the evil that would lead to strife and discord, that we may be at peace with all people. Fill us with zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which alone can bring the peace that is beyond all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing. Grant repentance and firm trust to all who commune this day, that receiving Your true body and blood, they may be forgiven and abound in hope, able to stand with a clean conscience before Your judgment throne. 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

O Lord, hear my prayer. **And let my cry come to You.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

*Remain standing for the hymn and beginning Service of the Sacrament liturgy. Those not staying for Holy Communion may quietly exit the church during the following hymn.*

1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
 Here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
 Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
 And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
 Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;  
 Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
 Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

### Service of the Sacrament

P: Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given to us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes in glory.

**C: Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord for His Holy Supper      LSB 209

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.      **C: Amen.**

**C: (speak) Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. (Congregation may be seated.)**

*Distribution notes: After each communing group has been dismissed from the Lord's Table, they may either directly exit the church using any door, or may return to their pew for the end of the Service of Sacrament.*

Distribution    *Special Table*

Distribution Hymns

*Here, O My Lord, I see Thee Face to Face (vs 3-7)*

LSB 631

*Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*

LSB 637

*(NOTE: Not all hymns/verses may be needed. Organist will play as needed.)*

631 (vs 3-6)

3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
This is the heavenly table spread for me;  
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong  
The brief bright hour of fellowship with thee.

4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need  
Another arm but Thine to lean upon.  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;  
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing  
blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;  
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

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1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

6 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;  
The feast, though not the love, is past and  
gone;  
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art  
here;  
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

7 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and  
love.

2 He who His saints in this world rules and  
shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heavenly bread He makes the hungry  
whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Closing Collect

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Benediction for Service of the Sacrament

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.**



1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgments

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## Luther for the Busy Man Devotions

Pastor Rockrohr's introductory comments for the devotions are published on the [www.lutherforthebusyman.org](http://www.lutherforthebusyman.org) website:

I don't remember where I got my copy of Luther for a Busy Man over 25 years ago but I remember many places where I have been blessed with Luther's insights. From rural northeast Ghana in West Africa, to urban Pretoria in South Africa, to mountainous Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Martin Luther pointed out Law and Gospel for my wife and me to ponder in our varied surroundings. It has always amazed me that he could be so relevant in the 20th and 21st centuries in Africa, but faith in Jesus Christ and love for and service to neighbor – which Luther constantly points the hearer to consider — are part of every Christian's life, in every age and culture. No less have these daily devotions assisted my life and ministry in the U.S. as a congregational pastor and college professor. It has been a blessing to share the devotions with students and colleagues when I could.

The new reader should not be afraid to bring Luther into daily devotions, or even to start daily devotions for the first time adding his insights. Yes, Luther is from 500 years ago. But his comments are still insightful, sometimes blunt and to the point, and not infrequently he just makes me laugh at his turn of phrases. Can you really say it like that?! Maybe I would not always use Luther's words, but his comments spark thoughts in my mind by which I might explain and share the Gospel with my family, friends and neighbors. The reading for each Sunday is the text on which that week's readings are based. The daily reading is not long, if you miss a day or two just catch up.

I have been looking for a way to share Luther for the Busy Man with members of my current congregation. So I was thrilled and I am thankful that the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary has taken up the project. For this next church year my congregation will use the assigned Sunday readings of the historic One Year Series, on which the Gospel readings Luther comments. So on Sunday we will hear the assigned Scripture readings on which I will preach, and then the rest of the week congregation members can meditate all the more in their own devotions of God's Word and prayer accompanied by Martin. May the Lord Jesus bless your study and meditations on His Word!

Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr  
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church  
Ridgeville Corners, Ohio

Sermon “Comforted in our Preparations” Malachi 4, Romans 15 and Luke 21

Romans 15

A

B

Malachi 4

A

B

Luke 21

A

B

### **Zion Lutheran Church’s Belief and Practice of the Lord’s Supper**

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes again in glory.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

For further study: Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f., 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34.