



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  
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## Thursday, December 31, 2020 New Year's Eve

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

*Across the Sky the Shades of Night*

**LSB 899**

1 Across the sky the shades of night  
This New Year's Eve are fleeting.  
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light,  
In solemn worship meeting:  
And as the year's last hours go by,  
We raise to You our earnest cry,  
Once more Your love entreating.

3 We gather up in this brief hour  
The mem'ry of Your mercies:  
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r  
Our grateful song rehearses:  
For You have been our strength and stay  
In many a dark and dreary day  
Of sorrow and reverses.

2 Before the cross subdued we bow,  
To You our prayers addressing,  
Recounting all Your mercies now,  
And all our sins confessing;  
Beseeching You this coming year  
To keep us in Your faith and fear  
And crown us with Your blessing.

4 We now remember, as we pray,  
Our dear ones in Your caring  
Who brightly shine in endless day,  
Past death and all despairing.  
At our life's end, Lord as Your own,  
Bring us with them around Your throne,  
The joys of heaven sharing.

5 Then, gracious God, in years to come,  
We pray Your hand may guide us,  
And, onward through our journey home,  
Your mercy walk beside us  
Until at last our ransomed life  
Is safe from peril, toil, and strife  
When heav'n itself shall hide us

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 90

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
**or ever you had formed the earth and the  
world,**

**from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

3 You return man to dust and say,  
**"Return, O children of man!"**

4 For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,

**or as a watch in the night.**

5 You sweep them away as with a flood;  
they are like a dream,

**like grass that is renewed in the morning:**

6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

**in the evening it fades and withers.**

7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
**by your wrath we are dismayed.**

8 You have set our iniquities before you,  
**our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

9 For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

10 The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
**yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

11 Who considers the power of your anger,

**and your wrath according to the fear of you?**

12 So teach us to number our days

**that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon  
us,

**and establish the work of our hands upon us;  
yes, establish the work of our hands!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

**All: Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide with us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading      Isaiah 30:8-17

8 And now, go, write it before them on a  
tablet and inscribe it in a book,  
that it may be for the time to come  
as a witness forever.

9 For they are a rebellious people,  
lying children,  
children unwilling to hear  
the instruction of the LORD;  
10 who say to the seers, "Do not see,"  
and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us  
what is right;

11 leave the way, turn aside from the path,  
let us hear no more about the Holy One of  
Israel."

12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,  
"Because you despise this word  
and trust in oppression and perverseness  
and rely on them,

13 therefore this iniquity shall be to you  
like a breach in a high wall, bulging out and

about to collapse, whose breaking comes  
suddenly, in an instant;

14 and its breaking is like that of a potter's  
vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly  
that among its fragments not a shard is found  
with which to take fire from the hearth,  
or to dip up water out of the cistern."

15 For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One  
of Israel,

"In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your  
strength."

But you were unwilling, 16 and you said,  
"No! We will flee upon horses";

therefore you shall flee away;  
and, "We will ride upon swift steeds";  
therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

17 A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;  
at the threat of five you shall flee,  
till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,  
like a signal on a hill.

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

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading                      Luke 12:35-40 (*Stand*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

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

35 “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn

*The People That in Darkness Sat*

**LSB 412**

1 The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
The gath'ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear  
Their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.

3 To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

6 (*Stand*) Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Sermon “Whether in Good or Bad – We Wait for Jesus” Isaiah 30, Luke 12 and Romans 8

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 God, Eternal Father and Giver of every good gift, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending. Forgive us our sins where we have done wrong, work in our hearts true repentance and faith, and redeem us from all the evil and hurts of this past year. You have shown us hard times and exposed many idols among us; yet, if we are faithless, Christ remains faithful and will not deny Himself. Help our unbelief, that we may know nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks to You for the many mercies and gifts You showered upon us in this past year. You have given life, healed and comforted. You have provided for our spiritual and physical well-being. You are the Lord of life and take care of us every day. All this You have done, not because of any merit in us, but only out of Your love for us in Jesus, our Savior. Comfort and sustain all Your children who suffer from any sickness, need or affliction. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have preserved this congregation in the faith for another year. We give You thanks for Your blessing and guidance. Grant that, by Your grace, we may continue to serve You in this place. Preserve the preaching and teaching in this place so it is faithful to Your Word, ensure that Your Holy Sacraments are administered according to Your commands and promises, and help us to reach out in love to this community. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers for our nation and its government. Preserve our republic, we implore You. Give health and competence to those who serve in positions of authority and those newly elected. 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 and their chaplains; 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.**

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

We commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. Until You bring this life on earth to an end, guard and guide us by Your strong arm. Lead us according to Your Word, and renew in us clean hearts that trust You and show love toward our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.*

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.*

Hymn *Jesus Comes Today with Healing (vs 1-2)* **LSB 620**

1 Jesus comes today with healing,  
Knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation:  
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
Of His sacred covenant.

### **Service of the Sacrament**

P: The 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: Lord God, In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating and His body and drinking His blood, given to us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again 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

*Jesus Comes Today with Healing (vs 3-6)*

**LSB 620**

*Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

**LSB 623**

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

620 (vs 3-6)

3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
Hung upon the cursed tree.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.

4 God descends with heav'nly power,  
Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing  
That I taste His love divine.

6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

623

1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray  
That we may feast on You today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine  
Enrich us with Your grace divine.

3 By faith Your Word has made us bold  
To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that You are we here receive,  
And all we are to You we give.

2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,  
Your body broken and Your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,  
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,  
Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim Your love until You come  
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be Your welcomed guest  
In heaven's high and holy feast.

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.**

Closing Hymn

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**LSB 733**

1 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last  
And our eternal home!

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgments

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Sermon "Whether in Good or Bad – We Wait for Jesus" Isaiah 30, Luke 12 and Romans 8  
Isaiah 30:8-17

A. Both faithfulness and unfaithfulness are not forgotten by the eternal God.

B. Rejecting God's \_\_\_\_\_ , even \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
is rejection of God.

C. Verse 15 "In \_\_\_\_\_ and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in \_\_\_\_\_ shall be your \_\_\_\_\_ ."

Luke 12:35-40

A. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds \_\_\_\_\_ when he comes...

38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake,  
\_\_\_\_\_ are those servants!

B. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Romans 8:31-39

A. If \_\_\_\_\_ is for us, who can be against us?

B. \_\_\_\_\_ in the new year can separate us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **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.