



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 17th, 2023
The Third Sunday in Advent

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 also be left on the pew seat. Offerings may be placed in the plates at the entrance before or after worship. Ushers will not pass offering plates between pews.

Prelude
Tower Bells
Welcome
Announcements

Opening Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

Confession and Absolution

Divine Service III LSB 184

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 126

1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

we were like those who dream.

2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

**then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.

4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!

5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

Gloria Patri, Kyrie, Gloria in Excelsis, Salutation and Collect of the Day (*sing*) LSB 186-189

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

**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 61:1-4, 8-11 (*sit*)

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who
are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of
ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be
glorified.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations...

8 For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations,

and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise

to sprout up before all the nations.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: (sing) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light...

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with

water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: (sing) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (*inside back cover of the hymnal*)

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn

Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come

LSB 350

Sermon

Offertory (*Stand and sing, offering brought forward*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Zion Lutheran Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, preparing to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, that remembering John the Forerunner’s preaching of the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, we, too, may die to sin and rise to new life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world would richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For God’s mercy and strength on our Synod president, Rev. Dr. Harrison; our district president, Rev. Dr. Wilson; our circuit visitor, Pastor Scheiwe; and all pastors in Christ, that they would remain faithful to not deny but confess Him, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ’s gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life’s end, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all in authority, that they would be given wisdom and insight until the day when Christ comes again in glory to usher in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties, [especially _____,] that they may be granted health and the certainty that our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when Christ returns to make all things new, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, as she eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom, that we would not grow weary, but be strengthened through the Word and Sacraments to ever hold fast to Christ's promise of salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. **Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

In Our Prayers – In Our Prayers – *Contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.*

Service of the Sacrament

LSB 194-195

Preface (*Sing*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. **C: It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (*Sing*)

LSB 195

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei (*sing*)

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution *Continuous Line*

Distribution Hymn *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring* **LSB 353**

Distribution Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* **LSB 621**

Distribution Hymn *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord* **LSB 352**

(NOTE: The Pastor will commune the Communion Assistants and then the organist. Then those who commune in the pews will be served starting at the back of the church. Not all hymns/verses may be needed. Organist will play as needed.)

General Communion Dismissal (*stand*)

Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation and Benedicamus (*sing*) **LSB 199-201**

C: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, **C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: (sing) Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: (sing) And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. **C: (sing) Thanks be to God.**

Benediction **LSB 202**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: (sing) Amen, amen, amen.

Closing Hymn *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* **LSB 393**

Silent Prayer and Extinguish Candles

Postlude and Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgements

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.