



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

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – 1 pm & 7 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in Advent

Prelude  
Tower Bells and Welcome  
Announcements

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

Opening Hymn

*Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB 349

OPENING VERSICLES FOR ADVENT (*Congregation Stands*)

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**C: Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C: Make His paths straight.**

P: Shower, O heaven, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**C: Let the earth open, that salvation may spout forth.**

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C: The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C: 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.**

THE COLLECT

**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.**

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE (*Congregation sits*)

Isaiah 65:17-25

17 **“For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be  
remembered or come into mind.**

18 But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;

for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of  
weeping and the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not fill out his days,  
for the young man shall die a hundred years  
old,  
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be  
accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my  
people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of  
their hands.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

23 They shall not labor in vain  
or bear children for calamity,  
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of  
the LORD,  
and their descendants with them.

24 Before they call I will answer;  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
and dust shall be the serpent's food.

They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain,"  
says the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 John 1:1-4

**1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3** that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

John 11:17-27 (*Stand*)

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. 20 So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."**

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Remain standing*)

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

THIRD ARTICLE OF THE CREED AND MEANING (*Remain standing*)

**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.**

**What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

SERMON – “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”

SERMON HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
*(The offering is brought forward on the last verse.)*

LSB 380

Collect for God’s Word Among Us *Congregation Stands*

**C: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Evening Prayer

**C: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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

BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.     **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

**LSB 924**

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

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Advent – Christmas - New Year’s Eve 2023  
Worship Schedule at Zion Lutheran

Wednesday, Dec. 20	1:00 & 7:00 PM Advent Service
Sunday, Dec. 24	10:00 AM 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service with Children
Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day	10:00 AM (with Lord’s Supper)
Sunday, Dec. 31, New Year’s Eve	10:00 AM