



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 24, 2023
The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prelude
Tower Bells and Welcome
Announcements

Visitors are welcome and 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.
Offerings may be placed in the plates at the entrance before or after worship. Ushers will not pass offering plates between pews.

Opening Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

Confession and Absolution (*stand*)

LSB 151

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

C: Amen.

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

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

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: 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.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake 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. **C: Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 89:1-5

1 I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD,
forever;

**with my mouth I will make known your
faithfulness to all generations.**

2 For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up
forever;

**in the heavens you will establish your
faithfulness."**

3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with
my chosen one;

I have sworn to David my servant:

4 'I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

5 Let the heavens praise your wonders, O
LORD,
**your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy
ones!**

Kyrie (*sing*)

LSB 152

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

**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. (sit)**

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

1 Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding
enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of
God dwells in a tent." 3 And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is
with you."

4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, 5 "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus
says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I
brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my
dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any

of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house... 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

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

Anthem *The People Who in Darkness Walked*

Epistle Reading Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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

Verse (*stand and speak*)

LSB 156

**Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.**

Holy Gospel Luke 1:26-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: (*sing*) Glory to You, O Lord.

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed

LSB 159

Children’s Message

Sermon Hymn

What Child Is This?

LSB 370

Sermon

Offertory

LSB 159

Offering brought forward during Offertory.

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Prayer of Zion Lutheran Church

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

For faith like that of the blessed Virgin Mary, God’s servant, who believed Gabriel’s Word and received the miraculous gift of God’s Son, our Immanuel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Word of God, sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of His holy people, that by it many who do not know Christ may come to faith, be comforted and strengthened with us, and sing to His name and extol His goodness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that the Lord’s favor would rest upon them and that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life He gives, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That faithful leaders may arise among us to govern our land faithfully under Christ, the Lord of lords, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For [_____ and] all who suffer in mind or body, that Christ, our Immanuel, would be with them in their trials and grant health and healing in accord with His perfect will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; 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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In Our Prayers – *Contact Pastor Rockrohr for changes to the prayer list.*

Morning Prayer

ALL: 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.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

LSB 166

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: (*sing*) Amen.

Closing Hymn

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

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