



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 31, 2023 – 10:00 am
The First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude
Tower Bells and Welcome
Announcements

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

OPENING VERSICLES (*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.**

Psalm 111

1 Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

4 He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

the LORD is gracious and merciful.

5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy;

8 they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

9 He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom;
**all those who practice it have a good
understanding.**
His praise endures forever!

THE COLLECT

ALL: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through 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 61:10-62:3

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.

62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as
brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.
**2 The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.**
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand
of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Galatians 4:4-7

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. **6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"** 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Jesus, Savior Pilot Me*

Luke 2:22-40 (*Stand*)

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Page 264 in hymnal. Remain standing*)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(The offering is brought forward on the last verse.)

PRAYERS OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

For grace to rejoice in Christ's blessed incarnation; in thankfulness that, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as His sons and heirs; and to grant us a glad new year, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that all who have been baptized into Christ may embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian families, that the Father from whom all fatherhood on earth is named would bless them with His promises; for parents, that they would be diligent and find delight in their work; for children, that by God's favor they would grow in strength and wisdom; and for widows, orphans and broken families, that God would comfort them with His mercy and give them joy in the redemption won for them in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our president, Congress, governor and all our leaders, that justice may prevail and God's people may be free to live at peace with all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely, that they would be comforted with the sure and certain knowledge that God will never forsake them, and that within the household of faith they might find family, friends and loving companionship, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers, [including _____,] that according to God's gracious will, they would be healed; and for those who mourn, that God would fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

ALL: Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising 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, we pray, 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.

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

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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.

Morning Prayer

C: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sing*)

Our Father
Which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

LSB 900

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude and Depart in His Peace

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