

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The Second Sunday In Advent

December 6, 2020

AS WE GATHER

This year, the holy evangelist St. Mark greets us to lead us through a new Church Year. He does not, however, greet us as we might expect. For one thing, he seems to have forgotten all about Christmas! At least Matthew and Luke tell of Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and of angels and shepherds. But Mark? While Christmas is the earthly "beginning" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this preacher means that his entire Gospel, the whole biblical story, is but "the beginning of the Gospel." It is as if he means to say that the Baptist's call to repentance comes to us *In Medias Res*, that is, in the middle of everything else, in the middle of the biblical story and in the middle of our lives and activities, right now. He is saying, "Stop what you're doing. Repent again and welcome the Greater One, Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The Christian faith and life is one of continual repentance and faith. Watch and listen as our Lord comes to us again, now, by His Spirit in His Word and Sacraments.



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

David Garcia, *Organ*
Pastor Stephen Heimer

MISSION PRAYER

O Emmanuel, our Advent King, You stand in time and eternity as the resurrection joy of your people and as the sign of final peace among nations. Breathe into Your Church anew this Advent Season Your Holy Spirit that we might live your victory and be a sign of your peace to the lost and the lonely, the broken hearted and broken in spirit, the despairing and dying. Breathe into us, your people of Zion, the vitality and vision to reach out to our communities with the eternal Gospel of Your Kingdom coming in joy and peace. In Your precious Name we pray. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The Advent of Our King" v.1-4 Lutheran Service Book 331

Worshippers are invited to stand and face the processional cross.



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

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INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

The sign of the Holy Cross may be made by all in remembrance and celebration of their baptism.

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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** Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.
- C** **O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- 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 to 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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v.1,5 LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

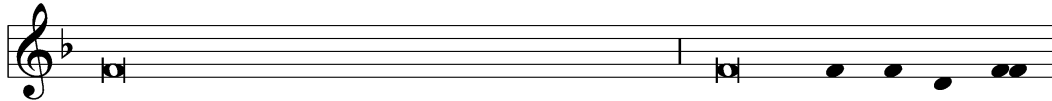
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

KYRIE

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



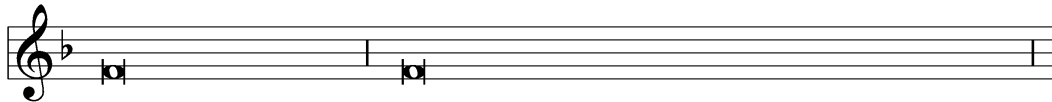
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



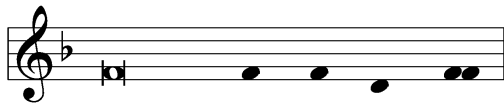
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



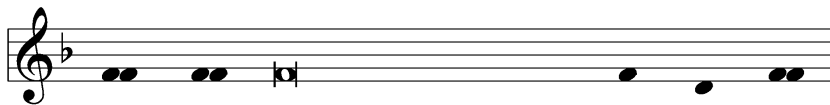
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Comfort for God's people)

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

(The day of the Lord will come.)

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

Mark 1:1-8

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" v.1-3 LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"The Great Shake-Up"

OFFERING

"All Creatures of Our Good and King" – *Handbell Choir*

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life and Let it Be" v.1 LSB 784



1 Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,



Lord, to Thee; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them



flow in cease-less praise, Let them flow in cease-less praise.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we give thanks this day for calling us and the whole world to repentance and faith by Your holy prophets, by Your servant John the Baptist, and by Your own Son, whose Spirit calls, gathers, and enlightens everyone through His mighty Word and Sacraments. Grant that we and all who hear His voice remain faithful in the fellowship of Your Holy Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Continue to give Your blessing, power, and grace to Your Church, especially all pastors and servants You have called and given to guard, feed, and teach Your flock. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give stability to our country, supplying all who make, administer, and judge our laws with wisdom and goodwill toward all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless the schools of the Church and all centers of learning and research that those who teach would serve You honorably and that our common life be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [*especially . . .*]. Support all who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near, [*especially . . .*]. Give Your tender care to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Remembering those who have loved and served You who now rest from their labors, we give You thanks. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

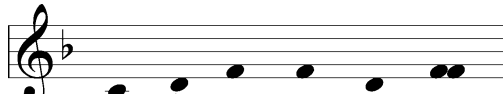
P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE


LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



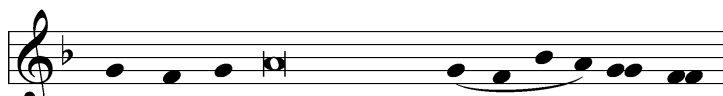
C And al - so with you.



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 It is truly good, 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, the mightier One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit so that all may come to You in the forgiveness of sins by the cleansing of His blood shed for the life of the world. 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

LSB 161



C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-



san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Gracious God and Father, though Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to bring us Your heavenly peace, violence and conflict still rage among Your children on earth. Bring a restoration of calm and security, and heal the wounds that have been inflicted. Grant that we all may live together in unity and peace, and let all hatred and ill will be remembered no more. Give us that peace which the world cannot give, and grant us grace that, delivered from all conflict and strife, we may live in harmony and safety, and finally, having gained the eternal rest of the saints in glory, may praise and bless, worship and glorify You forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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.

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Comfort Comfort Ye My People" LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

After the announcements, the Livestream comes to an end and the service of the sacrament continues. If you are unable to be present in the sanctuary due to health concerns but desire to receive the sacrament of the altar, Pastor Stephen and an elder will be available curbside on Birch St. between 12:30 and 1pm today that you might partake while remaining in your vehicle. As you wait curbside, pray aloud the prayers below in preparation for the sacrament:

+ + +

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Here our Heavenly Father promises anew His unconditional love, renews His pledge of forgiveness in Christ, and offers His Holy Spirit as strength for daily faith and life. If you are a visitor to Zion, we invite you in the Name of Jesus to commune with us. However, since God reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-32), the Scriptures call those who commune to personally examine themselves and in their communing publicly confess:

✠ **I am a baptized Christian and I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.**

✠ **I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.**

✠ **I believe that Christ is truly present with His body and blood under the bread and wine offering me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.**

✠ **Through His grace and strength, I will live to God's glory, in ministry with His people, in mission to His world.**

For those communicants preferring it, a light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice can be found at the center of each tray of wine (fruit of the vine). Children are invited to accompany parents to the altar for the blessing. We trust that your communion with Christ and His people will strengthen your faith, increase your love, and empower your witness to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have questions about your communing, please speak with the Pastor.

+ + +

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for our Savior, by whose sacrifice of His blood and death on a cross all who are baptized in Him are enabled by His Spirit worthily to repent and receive forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Grant that we may faithfully eat of His body and drink of His blood and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

G Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

If you will be receiving the Lord's Supper today, please wait as ushers guide each household forward. Remain standing and the pastor will serve you the sacrament in plastic cups. Take those cups with you as you return to your seat, placing them in one of the baskets located at either side of the sanctuary.

COMMUNION HYMNS

HYMN: 641 YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

Refrain



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
grat - i - tude That You should count us
Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
let us be, To serve each oth - er

Refrain



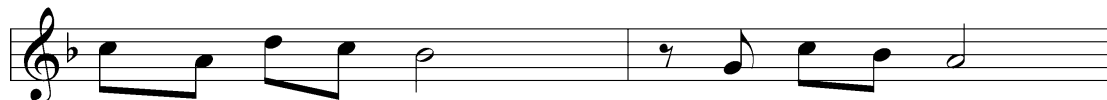
fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

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HYMN: 629 WHAT IS THIS BREAD



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine? The blood of
3 So who am I, That I should
4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead; This bread we break,
Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
live and He should die Un - der the rod?
Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
 Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
 My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
 He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
 That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
 sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
 me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
 meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
 blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

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HYMN: 878 ABIDE WITH ME



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

THANK THE LORD

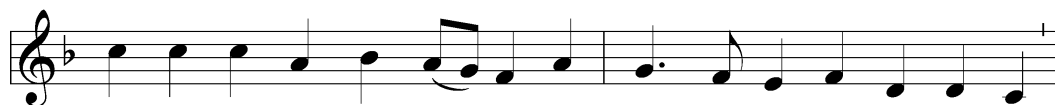
LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION 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.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

Please enjoy David's music and maintain adequate covid-distancing as we exit the sanctuary and enter the mission field.

ADVENT AT ZION

Lutheran Christians keep Advent as a penitential season; a season of personal preparation, examination, and anticipation. We remember with deep gratitude Jesus' birth among us and for us; we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and the renewal of His life in us; we pray for and look forward to His Advent return in glory and grace.

The Advent Wreath, with the lighting of a candle each week, signals the approach of Nativity celebration and underlines the waiting and longing of God's people throughout Holy History. The color **blue**, the church's designated color for **Hope** adorns the altar, pulpit, advent candles, and the clergy stole. **At Zion the Christmas tree** itself is a symbol of the passing of Advent time and the approach of Christmas as each week the tree assumes a new form - the first Sunday unadorned, the second Sunday lighted, the third Sunday (Joy Sunday) decorated, the fourth Sunday accompanied by the decorations and worship accessories throughout the sanctuary the tree and sanctuary are now "prepared" for Christmas worship.

The placement of the altar too reminds us that this is a penitential season and emphasizes the two primary dynamics or directions of worship, the **sacrificial** and the **sacramental**. The **sacramental** dimensions of worship describe God's presence and **God's gifts to us** in the Liturgy e.g. God's Word, Holy Baptism, Lord's Supper ... while the **sacrificial** actions of worship are the liturgical **responses of God's people to His grace in Christ** e.g. praise, prayer, offering ... The altar at the center of the chancel emphasizes the sacramental as God invites us to gather around His **table** for the sacred meal at which Jesus Christ is both host and healer. This placement also recalls the earliest liturgical and sacramental practice of the church. Placed against the chancel wall the altar reminds us of the sacrifice of God's people as we bring to Him our offerings of praise, petition and possessions. The more solemn penitential seasons of Advent and Lent are emphasized in our worship through the **sacrificial** placement of the altar against the chancel wall. In a similar way, the high festival season of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost present the altar as the table on which God offers us His Sacraments; **sacramental** grace and gifts.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Celebrant:	Pastor Stephen Heimer
Organist:	David Garcia
Elder:	Jim Smith
Reader:	Wellington Overman
Acolyte:	Victoria Ochoa
Camera Operator:	Jaden Heimer
Sound Director:	Brenna Rodriguez
Altar Guild:	Barbara Fourzan, Mary Sanchez
Offering Counter:	Ed Hamlyn

Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

Online donations: You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at www.zionelpaso.org. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

Mail donations: Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

Donations via an app: If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!



Join Us for Special Services During Advent! In addition to our Sunday worship services, we will have evening services on Wednesdays throughout Advent! **Indoor Advent services will be at 7:00pm and outdoor services will be at 5:00pm.** Here is our schedule of special services:

5:00pm & 7:00pm:

Wednesday, December 9 – "A Man Named John"

Wednesday, December 16 – "Chosen Children"

Thursday, December 24 – "The Word Dwelt Among Us"

10:30am:

Friday, December 25 – "We Have Seen His Glory"

The Funeral Service for Fay Eckstrom will be in January 2021. The exact date has yet to be scheduled. More information will be included in future announcements.

Zion's LWML will meet this coming Tuesday, December 8th, on Zoom, at 1:30 p.m. An invitation with the Zoom link has been emailed to LWML members/mailed to those who don't use email, as well as the Meeting Agenda. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. Peggy Djerf will present the Devotion and we will be finalizing plans for our upcoming Christmas project, as well as discussing and voting on upcoming projects and events coming up in 2021. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom on Tuesday!

All Zion Youth are Invited to decorate our Christmas Tree on Saturday, December 12th, at 10:00am. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (915) 566-4667. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsor a Poinsettia! You can honor a loved one, event, or anything else you would like by sponsoring a poinsettia this Advent season! We will include poinsettia sponsors in the bulletins for the following services:

- Sunday, December 20
- Thursday, December 24
- Friday, December 25
- Sunday, December 27

Each poinsettia will cost \$10. If you attend church in person, we can provide you with an envelope for your poinsettia offering. Otherwise, poinsettia offerings can be mailed to the church or sent online (see page 2). You can also call the church office to provide us with the message you would like in the bulletin. You will be able to take your poinsettia home after the worship service on Sunday, December 27th!



2021 Offering Envelopes have arrived and are available to be picked up at the Zion office! The office is open from 10:00am to 3:00pm, Tuesday through Friday. If you have any questions or if you would like to have your envelopes delivered to you, please call the church at (915) 566-4667.

Eastside Bible Study group will be taking a break during the Season of Advent and will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., on Zoom. We will be studying the CPH series: "Faith on the Edge: Science and the Savior". New members are always welcome and encouraged to join us! For more information, contact the church office or Lydia Williams at 915-630-2131.

Join Any Zion Bible Study from Home!

We are working to continue being a channel for the Holy Spirit through God's word,
and to help keep our Zion family connected.

*All are invited, please contact the Zion office for login information or questions.
Never attended an online meeting? No problem! Call 915.566.4667 for assistance.*

THIS WEEK AT ZION

12/9	Wednesday	5:00 PM	Outdoor Advent Service
		7:00 PM	Advent Prayer Service
12/11	Friday	10:00 AM	"Faith That Sees Through the Culture" Bible Study
12/13	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Households of Faith" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service

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