

John "came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him."

AN ADVENT LITURGY OF EVENING PRAYER  
**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

Second Mid-Week in Advent

December 9, 2020

**ADVENT 2020 MID-WEEK THEME – "YOU HAVE MY WORD"**

John 1:1–18 These verses are rich in light and life, truth and grace. They are some of the most important words ever written! God has given his to you. It's a Word connected to creation and connected to God—all so he can be forever connected to you. Connected to you as the Light that shines (shines!) in your darkness! So slow down. Take a deep breath. There's no need to panic. God says, "You have my Word." And what an awesome Word it is. His name? Jesus!



**WEEK 2 - AS WE GATHER**

The biggest bully on the block of life is a liar and the father of lies. We know him as the devil and Satan. And Satan hits us with his lies and rubs our face in our dirt. That's why God sent a man named John—John the Baptist.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

Adelante Ministries of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP**

Pastor Stephen Heimer

**INVOCATION**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C Amen.**

**P** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the Desert a highway for our God.

**C Every 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.**

**P** And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**C We wait and we watch for the advent of the glory of the Lord. Your kingdom come! Amen!**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HE'S COMING, HE'S COMING**

Ref: He's coming, He's coming! Yes, Jesus is coming again!  
He's coming, He's coming! Yes, Jesus is coming again

1 Light the candle of Hope, Light the candle of Hope.  
Light the candle of Hope, Light the candle of Hope.  
And light up the world with the Hope of the Lord.  
And light up the world with the Hope of the Lord.

2 Light the candle of Peace, Light the candle of Peace.  
Light the candle of Peace, Light the candle of Peace.  
And light up the world with the Peace of the Lord.  
And light up the world with the Peace of the Lord.

Text: Public domain

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

2 Corinthians 13:14 and John 1:1-18

**P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

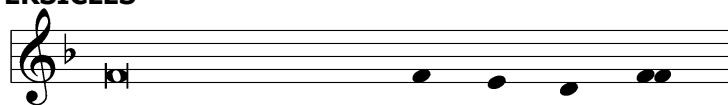
**C He was with God in the beginning.**

**P** Through him all things were made.

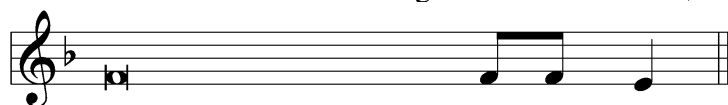
- C** Without him nothing was made that has been made.
- P** In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
- C** The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.
- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
- C** We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only.
- P** Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- C** From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
- P** The Law was given through Moses.
- C** Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ!

**+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +**

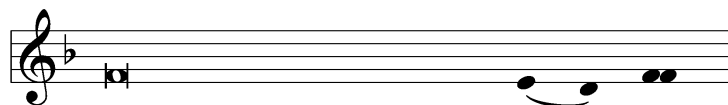
**VERSICLES**



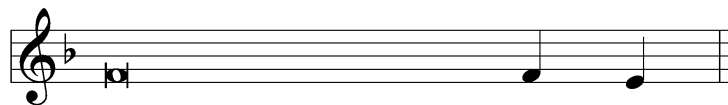
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



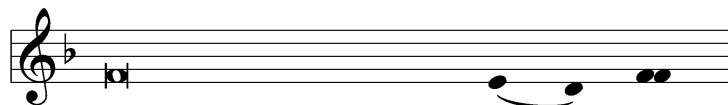
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.

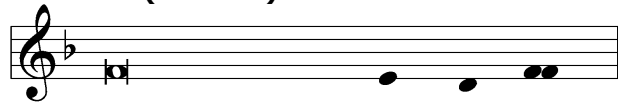


**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

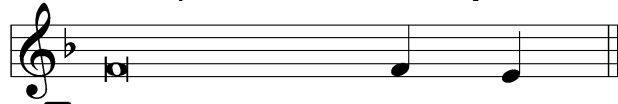


**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

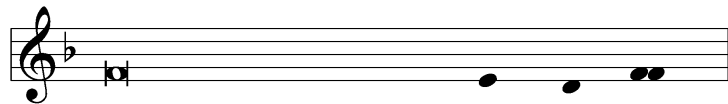
**VERSICLES (ADVENT)**



**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



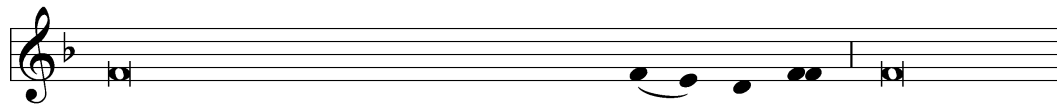
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



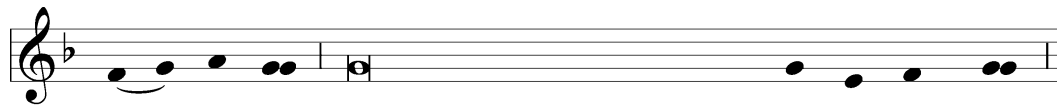
## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



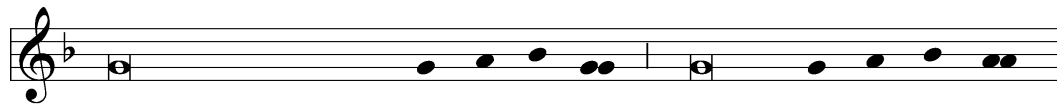
**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



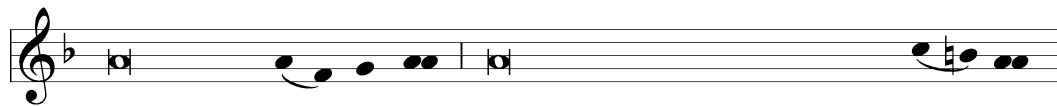
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo-ri-fy You, Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.



**C** A - men.

## + PSALMODY +

### PSALM 141



**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in-cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.




I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-u-ge.



Strip me not of my life. C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.



Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,



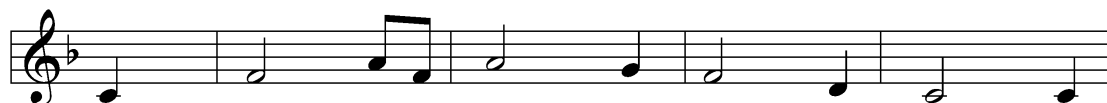
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

### PSALM PRAYER

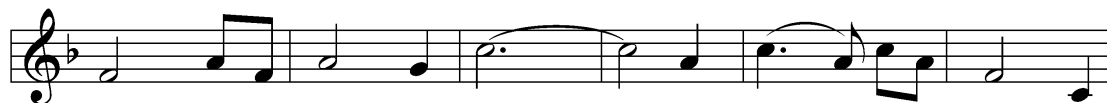
I Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

### + READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE +

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(Proclaim Comfort, Repentance, and Good News)

Isaiah 40:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak 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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every 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. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A 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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get 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!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He 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.

#### EPISTLE LESSON

(The Gospel for All!)

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

<sup>16</sup>For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

**GOSPEL LESSON**

(John the baptizer pointed to Jesus, the Light of the world)

John 1:6-9, 15

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"The Lord is My Light and My Salvation" LSB 723

*Refrain*

The Lord is my light and my sal-va - tion, The Lord is the

strong-hold of my life. Since the Lord is my life, my

strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

*Stanza*

1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His

house for - ev - er, To gaze on the beau-ty of the

Lord All the days of my life.

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev-'ry day I will

seek Your face. Though my fa - ther and moth-er may for -

sake me, The Lord will re - ceive me.

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, a -



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## SERMON

"A Man Named John" John 1:6-9,15 Pastor Stephen Heimer

## OFFERING, OFFERTORY, AND SILENT PRAYER

### + PRAYER +

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, Satan often attacks us with his lies, seductions and half-truths.
- C** **So we run. And we run some more.**
- P** And we keep on running.
- C** **That's why you sent a man named John—John the Baptist.**
- P** He came as a witness to testify concerning the Light, so that through him we might believe.
- C** **He himself was not the Light; he came only as a witness to the Light.**
- P** And this Light fights for us.
- C** **We thank you for Jesus.**
- P** Help us believe in him.
- C** **Help us listen to him.**
- P** Help us gain great courage from him.
- C** **For you are calling us to come home.**
- P** Into the strong, loving and protecting embrace of Jesus.

#### + Additional Prayers +

- P** Father, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that in Christ you shatter, scatter, and overcome all darkness.
- C** **We pray in Christ's strong and saving name. Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### EVENING PRAYER

**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.**

#### BENEDICTION

John 20:31

- P** John writes his gospel so that we may believe.
- C** **That Jesus is the Christ—**
- P** The Son of God.
- C** **And that by believing we may have life in his name.**
- P** Go forth in his name—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—for in his name you have life.



**C** Abundant life.

**P** Joyful life.

**C** Eternal life.

**All:** Amen!

## CLOSING HYMN OF EVENING PRAYER

"Abide With Me" v.1,5-6 LSB 878



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bide with me!  
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Elements of this service are from the Concordia Seminary Advent Service Series: "The Word Became Flesh" © 2017, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, and Dale A. Meyer. Used by permission.

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## 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](http://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 More Special Services During Advent!** Indoor Advent services will be at 7:00pm and outdoor services will be at 5:00pm. Here is our remaining schedule of special services:

**5:00pm & 7:00pm:**

**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.

**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!

**We are updating information for the 2021 Directory** to keep our Zion community connected to each other, even when we are far apart! Be sure to send us a picture of the people in your household! Also, if you have changed your address or contact information in the past 12 months, please call the church office or email us at [info@zionelpaso.org](mailto:info@zionelpaso.org).

**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. 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.

### **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**

12/11	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
12/16	Wednesday	5:00 PM	Outdoor Advent Service
		7:00 PM	Advent Prayer Service

+ + +