

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

Third Mid-Week in Advent

December 16, 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 3 - "CHOSEN CHILDREN" JOHN 1:1-18

Your heavenly Father comes looking for you. That's the message of John 1:12. You are his chosen and baptized child, forevermore!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art" "Cien Ovejas" Alabaré"

Mariachi San Pablo

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** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!**
- P** Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
- C Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**
- P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
- C For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

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.
- 3 Light the candle of Joy, Light the candle of Joy.
Light the candle of Joy, Light the candle of Joy.
And light up the world with the Joy of the Lord.
And light up the world with the Joy of the Lord.

Text: Public domain

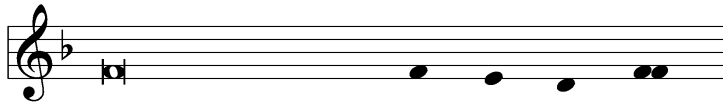
CALL TO WORSHIP

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

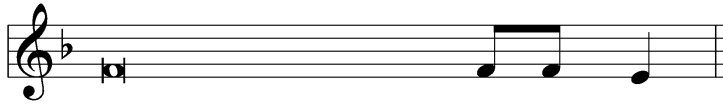
- P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
C **He was with God in the beginning.**
P Through him all things were made.
C **Without him nothing was made that has been made.**
P In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
C **The light shines in the darkness, 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 +

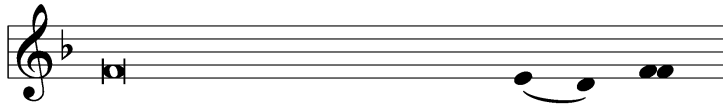
VERSICLES



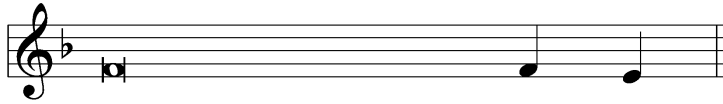
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



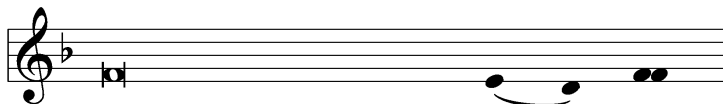
C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



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



C and the day is almost o - ver.

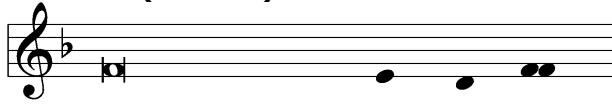


L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness

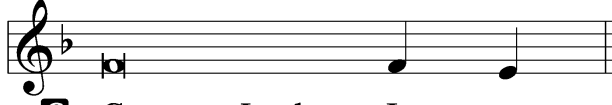


C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

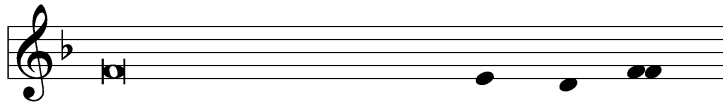
VERSICLES (ADVENT)



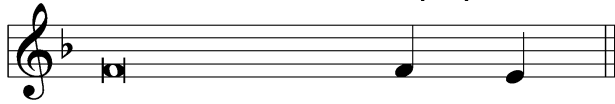
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



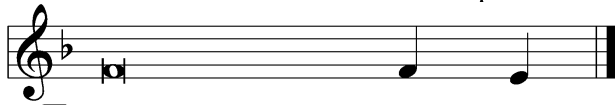
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.

PHOS HILARON



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -



ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:

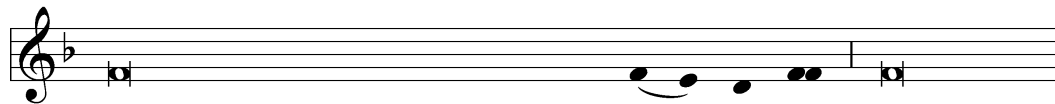


the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT



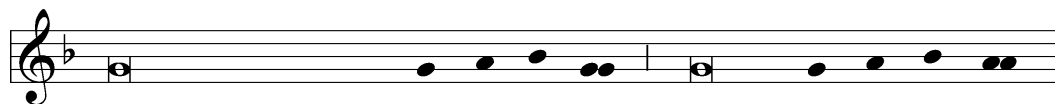
L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



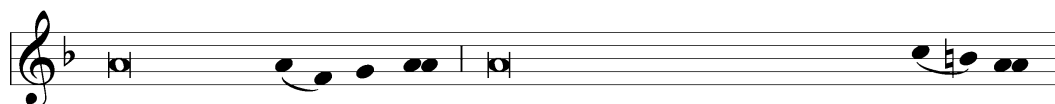
who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



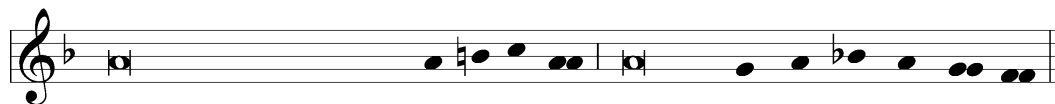
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



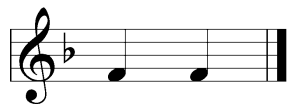
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



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-uge.



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.

Mar: Gozo, gozo, gozo al mundo, Cristo, Cristo es Emanuel



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Mar: God is with us, Joy to the world! Jesus saves us, Joy to the world!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore you to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE +

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(Proclaim Comfort, Repentance, and Good News)

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

EPISTLE LESSON

(The Gospel for All!)

Ephesians 1:3-8

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the

Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

GOSPEL LESSON

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

John 1:10–13

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Children of the Heavenly Father" LSB 725



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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SERMON

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.

G **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.

G **That Jesus is the Christ—**

P The Son of God.

G **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.

G **Abundant life.**

P Joyful life.

G **Eternal life.**

All: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN OF EVENING PRAYER

"The Night Will Soon Be Ending" LSB 337 (sung to the tune of LSB 644)

- 1 The night will soon be ending; The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens And bids you sing again.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation— This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming From sin's oppressive might.
- 5 God dwells with us in darkness And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us, However far we run.
God claims us still as children Through Mary's infant Son.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

"Vamos a Alabar Al Rey" (We Are Going To Praise the King)

Mariachi San Pablo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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. 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!

Thank you to Mariachi San Pablo for accompanying our service!

Join Us for Christmas Services! Indoor The outdoor Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00pm and the indoor service will be at 7:00pm. Here is our schedule of Christmas services:

- 5:00pm & 7:00pm: **Thursday, December 24** – *"The Word Dwelt Among Us"*
- 10:30am: **Friday, December 25** – *"We Have Seen His Glory"*

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.

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 at 915-630-2131.

Please Save the Date! Zion's LWML is hosting a Virtual Baby Shower for 2 of Zion's expectant Moms: Martha Sellers, due in May, and Erin Shimkus, due in February! The shower will be held on Zoom in the afternoon of Sunday January 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. and you are invited! We will be presenting a special Baby Shower Devotion focusing on various baby items, with the help of a Thrivent Action Grant, and will also be **collecting Diapers (from sizes Newborn to Size 2) and Baby Wipes** for the 2 Moms and their babies. You are also invited to join this "Diaper and Wipes Collection," which will be divided and shared with the 2 families. **Please RSVP to Lydia Williams at (915) 630-2131 or the Church Office** if you will be attending the shower, so we may send you the Zoom link closer to the shower date. Diapers and wipes will be collected in the Auditorium, in the designated spot, or may be dropped off at the Church Office. Members of LWML will also be happy to pick up these items from your home and/or shop for you. Please let Lydia or the Church Office know. Further information will be forthcoming. Thanks, in advance, for contributing to the collection for the babies! We hope to see you at the Virtual Baby Shower!

The Opportunity Center for the Homeless is in need of wheelchairs, transport chairs and walkers. If you are able to donate any of the above equipment, or know of any possible resources, please contact Jason Cagann at 512.785.5563 or jcagann@ocelpaso.org OR call the church office at: 915.566.4667. Thank you!



+ + +

THIS WEEK AT ZION

12/20	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Exodus" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service
12/24	Thursday	5:00 PM	Outdoor Christmas Eve Service
		7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
12/25	Friday	10:30 AM	Christmas Day Service