SERVICE OF PRAYER AND MISSION - A.C.T.S.

Adoration + Confession + Thanksgiving + Supplication

ZION LUTTIERAN GHURGH

STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

The First Sunday Of Christmas

December 27, 2020

AS WE GATHER

The Epistle for the First Sunday after Christmas brings a one-sentence summary of the Christmas message as Paul writes it to the Christians of Galatia. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son" (Galatians 4:4). God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth, this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. In the days after Christmas, we have the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the Christmas message. We have received the greatest of all gifts. Through Jesus Christ, we are heirs of God and have an eternal inheritance!

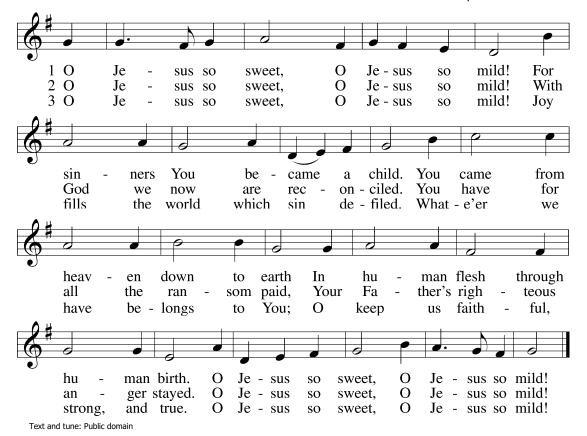


PRE-SERVICE MUSIC WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

David Garcia, *Organ* Pastor Stephen Heimer

OPENING HYMN

"O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild" Lutheran Service Book 546



INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

The sign of the Holy Cross \(\pm \) 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.
- Amen.

ADORATION

- P Praise the LORD!
- I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- P Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.
- **©** Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- P He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- **G** He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.
- **P** He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;
- P they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!
- P The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.
- **G** His praise endures forever!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

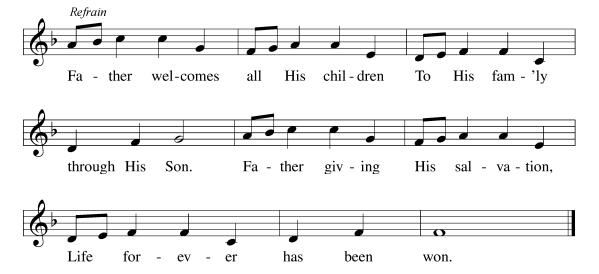
- People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.
- P God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- Amen.

+ HOLY BAPTISM +

Yanira Elizabeth Vasquéz

BAPTISMAL ENTRANCE HYMN

"Father Welcomes" v.1-2 LSB 605 & "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v.3-4 LSB 361





BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

THE NAMING

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

BAPTISMAL FLOOD PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold this child according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her, which has been inherited from Adam and which she herself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

PROMISES OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

- From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.
- **P** Is it your intention to serve this child as sponsors in the Christian faith?
- **R** Yes, with the help of God.
- P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL FOR BAPTISM

Mark 10:13-16

- P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.
 - They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.
- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

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.

HOUSEHOLD PROFESSION OF FAITH

- **P** Do you renounce the devil?
- R Yes, I renounce him.
- **P** Do you renounce all his works?
- N Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- R Yes, I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?
- R Yes, I believe.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?
- R Yes, I believe.
- P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?
- R Yes, I believe.
- **P** Do you desire to be baptized?
- R Yes, I do.

THE BAPTISM

- **P** I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.

BLESSING OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

PRESENTATION OF THE WHITE GARMENT

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PRESESNTATION OF THE BIBLE

ZION FAMILY WELCOME

- A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

PRAYER

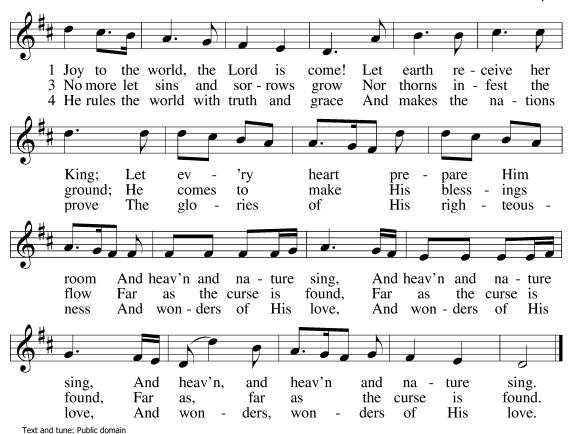
Lord, I thank You that You are willing to receive this child through Holy Baptism as Your child. Be in our midst according to Your promise. Grant that this child may learn to grasp Your great gift in faith and live as a thankful and joyful child of God. Grant this each day also to me and to all the congregation of the baptized, that Your name may be glorified and Your kingdom come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

- P We rejoice with thankful hearts in your baptism today. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace → be with you.
- C Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joy to the World" v.1,3-4 LSB 387



SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- Let us pray. Gracious God, through our Lord Jesus Christ You have taken the slavery under which we were held captive to sin and Satan and have given us new life. By the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, keep us ever connected to Christ to live out each day in our baptismal grace as we await the joy of life in Your eternal presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.
- Amen.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Nations will acknowledge the Chosen One of the Lord.)

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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. ¹For 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. ²The 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. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

(At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.)

Galatians 4:4-7

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

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

PREPARATION FOR READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:30, 32

Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

(Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.)

Luke 2:22-40

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

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

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And 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." ³⁶And 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, ³⁷and then as a

widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And 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. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

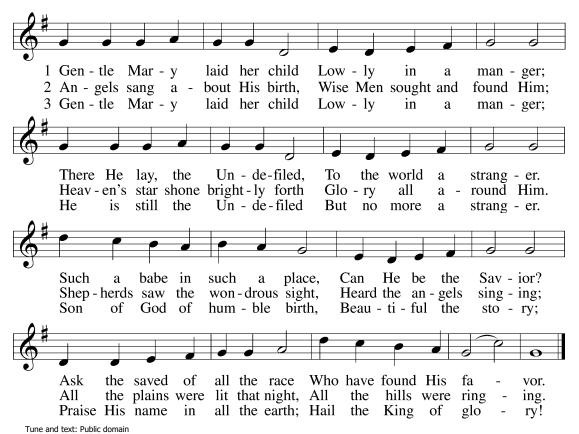
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" LSB 374



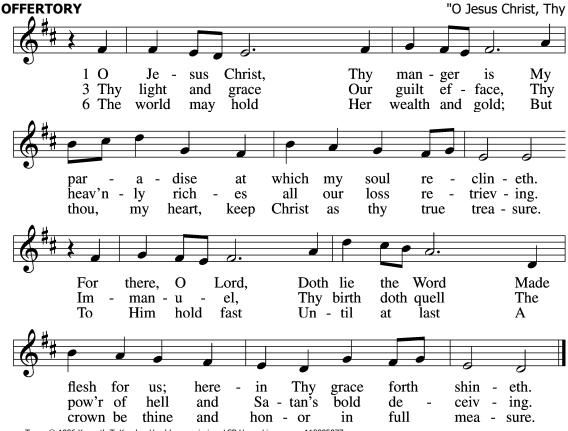
SERMON

"We See Salvation" The Lessons

OFFERING "Carol of the Bells"

Zion Handbell Choir





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PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

- Lord God, Heavenly Father we lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, and for all your Loving kindness we bless your holy Name.
- For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy with which you have guided us all the days of our life...

we thank you!

For the wonder and beauty of your creation, and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious...

© we praise you!

For the gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord; for the grace and truth that have come by Him; and for his obedience unto death, even death on a cross...

@ we worship you!

For His glorious resurrection and ascension to your right hand, and for His kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion...

G we glorify you!

For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth...

we thank you!

E For the early leadership gifts to Your Church of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Deacons, Saints, Martyrs ... and for their lives of service to You and mission to a dying world we bless Your grace and thank You for their example to us as Servant Leaders...

we thank you!

• For the Servant Leaders and the leadership gifts You have breathed so abundantly into this congregation in the past, now in the present, and toward a promising future...

we thank you!

We lift up our thanksgiving, praise, adoration and love to You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

C Amen!

PRAYERS OF SUPPLICATION

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.

MORNING PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

- P Go out into the world in Christ's peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And Almighty God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you. (Romans 12:9-12)
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" LSB 366



ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE David Garcia, Organ

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Poinsettias as a floral offering in our Sanctuary have been given TO THE GLORY OF GOD by:

Pat Wende, in memory of Charles Wende and Billie Sue Lillge
Jim Smith, in memory of Karma Smith
Fred Hulce, in memory of Nancy Hulce
Sharon Amastae, in memory of Jim and Betty Somppi

Mary Sanchez, in memory of Denise Herrmann and in honor of Delia Delgado

Barbara Laux, in memory of Raymond and Marcella Laux

Joe and Barbara Upsal

John and Lucille Williamson

Arlin and Heather Guess

Terry and Linda Chaumont

Lydia and David Williams, in memory of our loved ones in their Heavenly home and in celebration of all God's Blessings

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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!

Today we rejoice in the Baptism of Yanira Elizabeth Vasquéz, daughter of Cristian Vasquéz and Angelica Cervantes. Welcome all who are with us today as guests at Zion and online to witness this joyous receiving of God's grace.

Join Us on New Year's Eve! We will have an evening service of prayer and praise at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 31st. Join us as we gratefully remember the ways Jesus continues to guide and bless us all as we enter the new year.

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.

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, both expecting baby boys: Erin Shimkus, due in February, and Martha Sellers, due in May! <u>The Shower will be held on Zoom, on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., and you are invited!</u> We will be presenting a special Baby Shower Devotion focusing on various baby items, with the help of a Thrivent Action Grant. **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 date of the Baby Shower. **

*In addition, we will 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 "Diapers and Baby Wipes Collection", which will be divided and shared with the 2 families. For the next several weeks, Diapers and Baby 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 contact Lydia or the Church Office if you need help with either of those details.** Further information will be forthcoming. Thanks, in advance for contributing to the collection for the babies and their Moms! 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!



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ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE

Preacher & Liturgist: Pastor Stephen Heimer

Organist:
Elder:
Reader:
Camera Operator:
Sound Director:
David Garcia
Jim Smith
Mariann Porter
Jaden Heimer
Brenna Rodriguez

Offering Counter: Ed Hamlyn

THIS WEEK AT ZION

12/31 Thursday 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Prayer Service 1/3 Sunday 9:15 AM "Exodus" Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service