# DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

# **The Second Sunday Of Christmas**

January 3, 2021

# **AS WE GATHER**

The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today's service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God's Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God's wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!



# David Garcia, *Organ* Pastor Stephen Heimer

# PRE-SERVICE MUSIC WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

# **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

"God of Grace and God of Glory" Lutheran Service Book 850



1

# INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

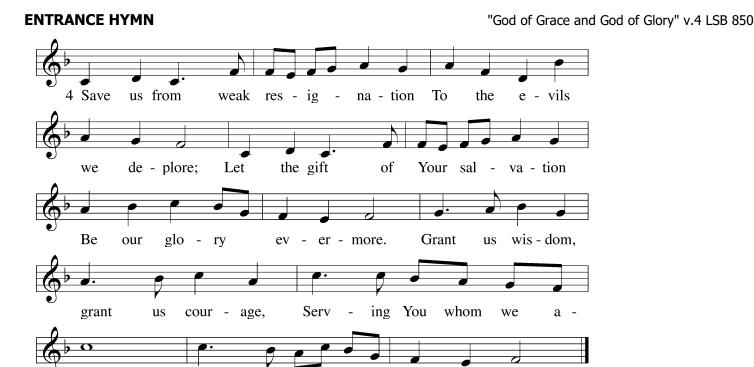
- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

# **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.
- Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.
- 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 
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.
- Thanks be to God. Amen.

# + SERVICE OF THE WORD +



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Text and tune: Public domain



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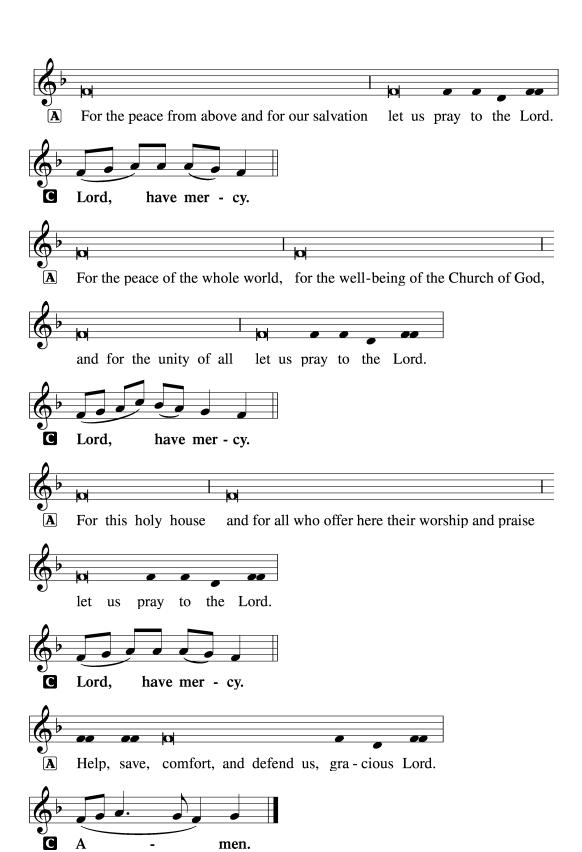
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You

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al - le - lu - ia,

# SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

ia,

**P** The Lord be with you.

Al-le - lu

- And also with you.
- Let us pray. Almighty Father, You have shined on us the new Light of Your Word made flesh, who lived among us. Cause us to find in Jesus, this Light, who and what is really important in life, and grant us Your blessing as we follow Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

al - le

Amen.

# **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)

lu

ia.

1 Kings 3:4–15

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his

throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." <sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

**PSALM** Psalm 119:97-104

- Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.
- A Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.
- **P** I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.
- **I** understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts.
- A I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.
- **P** I do not turn aside from Your just decrees, for You have taught me.
- How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- A Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

# **EPISTLE**

(We are gifted with God's spiritual blessings.)

Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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

# **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

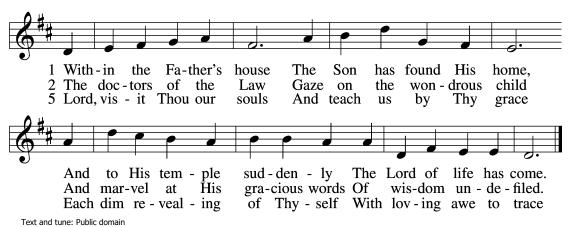
<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



# **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Within the Father's House" v.1-2,5 LSB 410



#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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

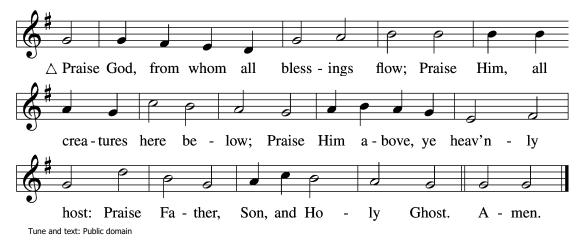
the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON "What's Most Important"

**OFFERING** David Garcia, *Organ* 

# **OFFERTORY**

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" LSB 805



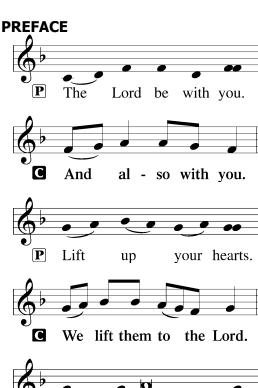
#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

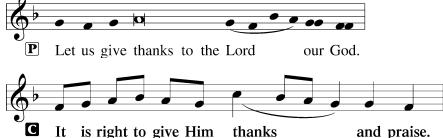
P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

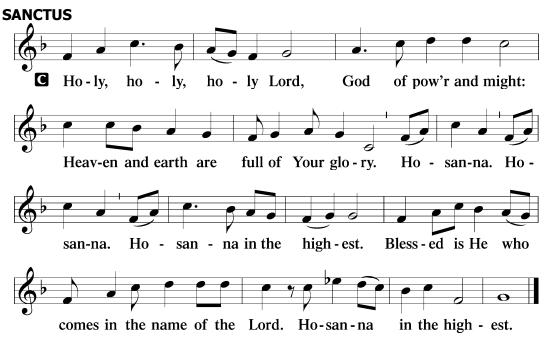
- in mercy, hear our prayer.
- We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,
- in mercy, hear our prayer.
- We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,
- in mercy, hear our prayer.
- P We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [including . . .]. Lord of care and grace,
- in mercy, hear our prayer.
- As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,
- in mercy, hear our prayer.
- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- Amen.

# + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +



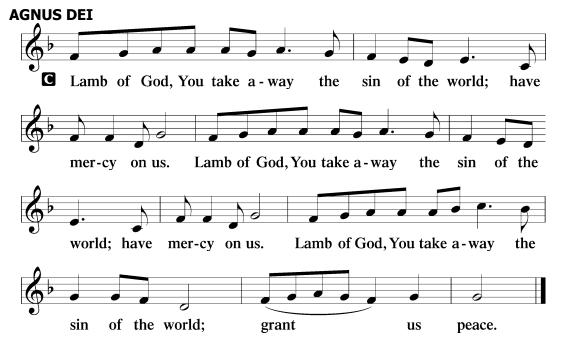


- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit, that we receive Your wisdom and blessings with thankfulness. Help us to treasure the life of faith and worship we share and receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- Amen.



# LORD'S PRAYER

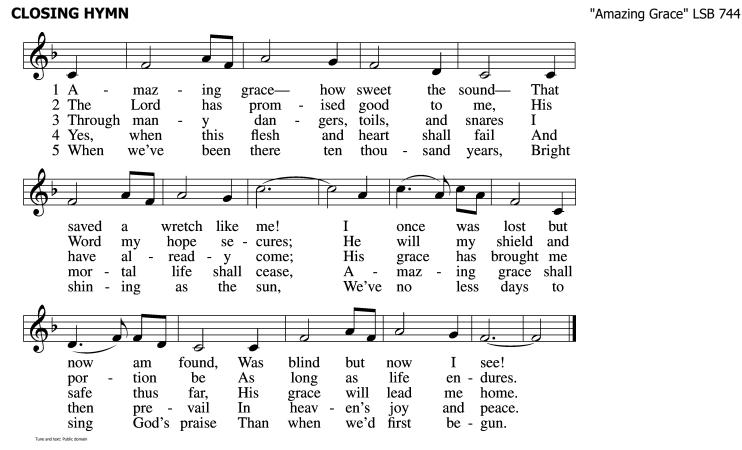
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



# **BENEDICTION**

- 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.
- Amen.



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Livestream comes to an end, the distribution of 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 will be available curbside at Zion between 12:30 and 1pm today that you might partake while remaining in your vehicle.



# **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 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

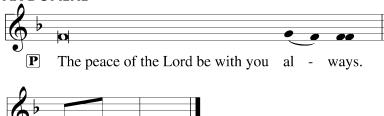
- P Blessed are You, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people and displaying Your abiding care for us as we respond to Your call as Your followers and Your friends. Gathered as Your family at Your gracious invitation, grant that we be strengthened in faith toward You and in genuine love for one another as we walk each day in the wisdom You graciously supply and confidently await Your coming in glory. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving and prayer.
- Amen.

# THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

# **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

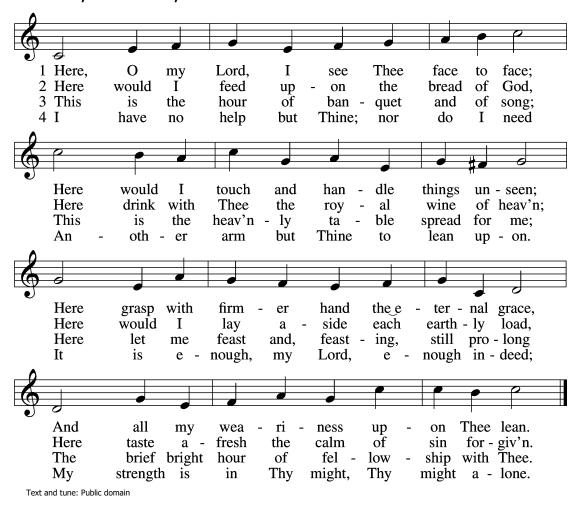
# **PAX DOMINI**



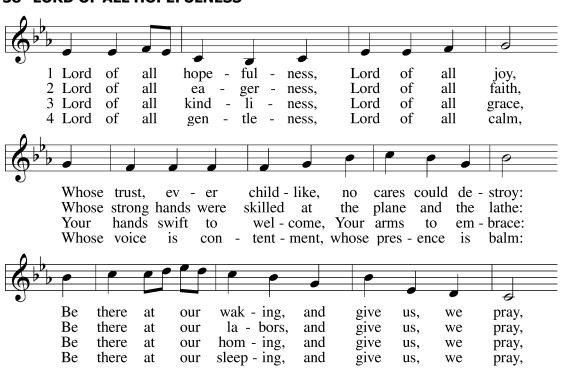
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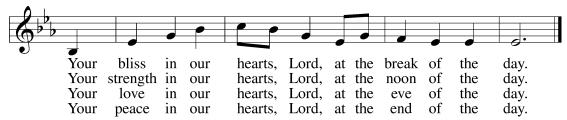
# **DISTRIBUTION, HYMNS, AND SILENT PRAYER**

# 631 "HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE THEE FACE TO FACE"



# 738 "LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS"





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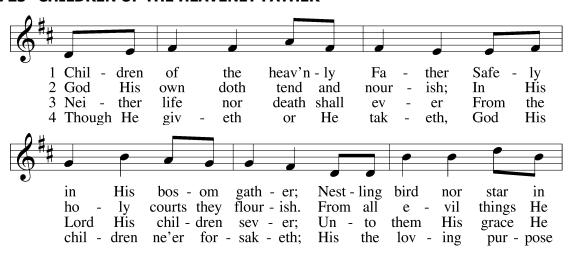
Tune: Public domain

# 915 "TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US"

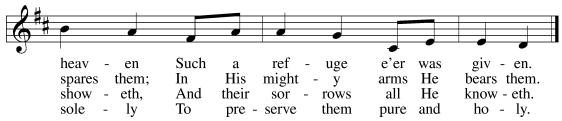


# 725 "CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER"

Text and tune: Public domain



We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.



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# POST COMMUNION BLESSING

# POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Let us pray. O God the Father, we thank You for the forgiveness and renewal of life You have given us in the precious body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Because we depend on You for everything, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be sent forth to declare the wonders of our Savior to the world He died to save; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- Amen.

# **BENEDICAMUS**

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

# **DISMISSAL**

- **P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
- Thanks be to God.

# **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Take My Life and Let It Be" v.1-3,5-6 LSB 784



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POSTLUDE MUSIC David Garcia, Organ

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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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!

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!





# **ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE**

**Preacher & Celebrant:** Pastor Stephen Heimer

Organist:David GarciaElder:Jim SmithReader:Tim Kludt

Acolyte:Gabryelle RodriguezCamera Operator:Jaden HeimerSound Director:Brenna Rodriguez

**Offering Counter:** Jim Smith

# **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

1/7 Thursday 7:00 PM "Acts" Bible Study (on Zoom) 1/10 Sunday 9:15 AM "Exodus" Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service