

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*The Vision of Zion Lutheran Church and School is a Christ-centered, growing,  
spiritual home for ✦ Worshiping God ✦ Proclaiming the Gospel  
✦ Nurturing faith ✦ Educating ✦ Loving and Caring for people*



**December 22, A.D. 2024**  
**8:00 A.M. Morning Prayer**  
**10:30 A.M. Divine Service IV**





**WELCOME VISITORS!** — We are so glad you came to Zion today. Do come and worship the Lord again with us. We would love for you to scan the code and fill out a Connect Card! If you live in this area and do not have a regular church home, I would be most pleased to talk with you about membership at Zion Lutheran Church. —The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece, Senior Pastor

**ZION'S NURSERY** — We welcome all children and infants to our worship services and encourage their attendance. If the need arises to take your child out of the service, please feel free to use the staffed nursery located through Trinity Hall.

**HOLY COMMUNION** — As Christians we believe in the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, together with the Bread and Wine, in the Sacrament, given to us for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of our faith, and as an expression of the unity of our faith. Those who profess this faith, are baptized, penitent, and acknowledge Christ as their Savior are welcome to participate in the Sacrament.

**THE EVERGREEN THREAD** — A meditation on today's lectionary and appointed psalm (80:1-7) from an evangelistic perspective. —Of Little Towns and Evergreen Trees: Millennia ago, the psalmists (including the writer of today's appointed psalm) would pray to God for the restoration and salvation of Israel after they had earned His wrath. And in the lead-up to today's first reading we find Micah foretelling the destruction of Israel as punishment for their sins. "Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it," Micah writes (1:2a) in announcing their fate. But within these seven chapters of impending doom God, through his prophet, promises salvation through one Anointed from ancient days: the Messiah, Christ. "And he shall be their peace." There was no peace in Micah's world, and likely neither was there much good will toward men. In this respect our world hasn't changed. But the eternal and unchanging God made a promise. "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people", the angel said (Lk. 2:10) in announcing the birth of our Savior.

Evergreen is the color of the season; a symbol of eternal life and of God's unchanging nature. But as we are reminded in today's Epistle reading, Jesus, "who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary", was born to die. Look to the tree, where Christ died for the sins of mankind. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that through his eternal love for all humanity He sacrificed His life to save us all. This is the evergreen thread that runs through the Bible from Gen. 3:15 to Rev. 19:11. As we revel in the fleeting joy of the season let us also revel in the joy of eternal salvation: "we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

**8:00 A.M.**

✠ **Morning Prayer** ✠  
**LSB 235**

PRELUDE

*Please stand and face the Processional Cross, turning as it passes by.*

**PSALMODY**

VENITE

LSB 236

OFFICE HYMN *Sit**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LSB 357

St. 1 – All    St. 2 – Women    St. 3 - All    St. 4 – Men    St. 5, 6, & 7 - All

**READINGS**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL (*We remain seated for the Gospel.*)

Luke 1:39–45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

CHILDREN’S HOMILY

HOMILY

“Jumpin’ for Jesus”

Text: Luke 1:44

CANTICLE *Stand*

*Benedictus*

LSB 238

OFFERING & VOLUNTARY *Sit* *O Magnum Mysterium*

Cathy Mocklebust

## PRAYER

LSB 241

COLLECT OF THE DAY *Stand*

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

### COLLECT FOR GRACE

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### LORD’S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

**THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY**

Liturgist/Homilist (subbing for JHE)

Children's Homilist

Organist

Choir

Ushers

Audio and Facilities Arrangements

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece

DCE Amy Heuer

Dr. Scott Hyslop

Parish Handbell Choir

Mr. Richard Magers; Board of Elders

Larry Wagner



**10:30 A.M.**  
**✠ Divine Service IV ✠**  
**LSB 203**

PRELUDE

*Fantasy on a Bavarian Carol*

John Behnke

*Please stand and face the Processional Cross, turning as it passes by.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*See amid the Winter's Snow*

LSB 373

**✠ Confession and Absolution ✠**

**✠ Service of the Word ✠**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.** *Sit*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose



origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.


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

**C** **Thanks be to God.** *Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Verse



These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that  
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

## Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



## THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY

Celebrant/Homilist (subbing for JHE)  
Organist  
Choir  
Ushers  
Audio and Facilities Arrangements

The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Preece  
Dr. Scott Hyslop  
Parish Handbell Choir  
Board of Elders  
Larry Wagner

