

**Third Week in Advent  
Service of Prayer and Preaching  
December 14, 2022 7:00 p.m.**



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'***



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'*

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You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*\* Please turn off cellphones\**

## Third Week in Advent

Service of Prayer and Preaching, LSB 260

December 14, 2022 7:00 p.m.

## Invocation

### *Stand*

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

**P** We begin in the name into which we are baptized; In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Opening Versicles

*LSB 260*

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.

**C** Our God shall come; He does not  
keep silence.

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C** Make His paths straight.

**P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let  
the skies rain down righteousness.

**C** Let the earth open, that salvation may  
sprout forth.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** 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.

**THE THIRD CANDLE: THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE (Behold) [pink]**

**P** As we light the shepherds' candle on our Advent wreath, we recall the shepherds outside Bethlehem who were told by the angel: "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" about the news of Jesus' birth and came to worship Him. Remembering their joy and witness, we pray.

**C** Merciful Father, as shepherds of old, may we behold once again the good news that the Savior has come. Then send us abroad to share the news with

# others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

*Opening Hymn*

*LSB 357 sts. 1-4*

## *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,  
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law  
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**Readings From Holy Scripture**      *LSB 263*

**Reading**      *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of

righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me

in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Reading** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every



kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Reading**

*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent  
25 questioned him, "Why then do you

baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know.

27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Responsory**

*LSB 263*

**P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** He shall reign as king and deal wisely , and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: **The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

*Stand*

**Catechism**

*LSB 264*

**Apostles' Creed**

**P C** 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.**

*Sit*

*Song of the Day*

*On Screen*

*“O Christmas Tree”*

*Homily*

*“The Christmas Tree”*

*Pastor Tom Rhodes*

## **Offering**

*In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God’s abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)*

*Stand*

# Prayer

*LSB 265*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, and all those on our prayer list & prayer cards, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**



**P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect of the Day**

*LSB 265*

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we long for You to hear our prayers and to lighten the Darkness of our hearts by Your gracious presence; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Collect for the Word**

*LSB 265*

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning.

Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy

Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Evening Prayer

*LSB 266*

**P C** 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.

**Lord's Prayer**      *Matthew 6:9-13, LSB 264*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom  
and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

# Blessing

LSB 267

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

*Closing Hymn*

*LSB 352 sts. 1, 4-6*

*“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”*



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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