

**December 25, 2023**

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**

Welcome from Presiding Minister

*Please stand as you are able.  
Turn to follow the Baby Jesus as it processes through the worship space.*

HYMN

Joy to the World - Vs. 1 and 2

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and  
heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Congregation responses are in bold*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.  
**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call me to be a messenger of your peace.  
I confess that too often I hoard my joy,  
my resources, and my security.  
I too often nurture conflict and build barriers.  
I too often neglect the needs of my neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on me.  
Where I am self-centered, open my heart.  
Where I am reluctant, give me courage.  
Where I am cynical, restore my trust.  
Renew me with your grace  
and give me again the hope of life with you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

You are a child of God and heir of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In  
† Jesus you are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know  
the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

HYMN

Joy to the World - Vs. 3 and 4

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts  
with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

READING

Genesis 3:8-13, 19-24

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory - Vs. 1 and 4

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Refrain* Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

READING

Genesis 22:15-18

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful - Vs. 1 and 4

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, We greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Vs - 1

Hark! The herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

READING

Isaiah 11:1-9

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Vs - 2 and 3

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgins womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Refrain* Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

READING

Luke 1:26-38

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem Vs. - 1 and 2

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

READING

Luke 2:1-7

HYMN

Away in a Manger - Vs. 1 and 3

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

READING

Luke 2:8-16

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o're the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain* Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

READING

John 1:1-14

*Please stand as you are able*

HYMN

Go, Tell it on the Mountain - Vs. 1 and 3

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry-where;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

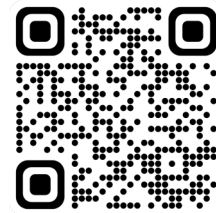
*The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.*

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

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Smartphone = <https://abundant.com/ZionLutheranChurch/MobileGiving>



God of abundance,

**receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Words of Institution - Please look up, Pastor will be speaking these words*

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior born today gave us:

**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.**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

The Lord's Supper (Communion) at this congregation is practiced as an open table – all are welcome. Jesus said this is his body and blood given and shed for you; come receive the loving grace God provides for you.

Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God. Children who commune at their home congregation are encouraged to commune here today too.

Gluten Free wafers available. Request at time of receiving communion.

*Please stand as you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray,

**God my redeemer, you fed me at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you gathered here with me in joy, send me forth as a messenger of your peace. Make me shine with the good news of your glory, born to me in Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**Amen.**

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for ever more.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Christ the Savior is born!

**Thanks be to God!**

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**I will, with God's help.**

**Zion Lutheran Church  
349 Lindy Lane Ave. NW  
North Canton, Ohio 44720  
330-499-3909**

**Worship Services**

**Sunday Morning: 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m. Casual Worship  
Service**

**\*Services are streamed through Facebook**

**Office hours**

**9:00am to 3:00pm M-F  
Doors open at 9am**

**Statement of Purpose:**

**Zion matters to the community by showing the love of Jesus Christ**