

**December 31, 2023 - First Sunday of Christmas
Traditional Worship Service**



Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

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

**STAFFED CHILD
CARE**

Available during
worship service.
Infant thru
Kindergarten.

WIFI = Zion Guest
No password required

www.zion-nc.com

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@zionnorthcanton

Welcome from Assisting Minister

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

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Congregation responses are in bold print

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen. Come Holy God.

The Assisting Minister may speak the opening line.

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

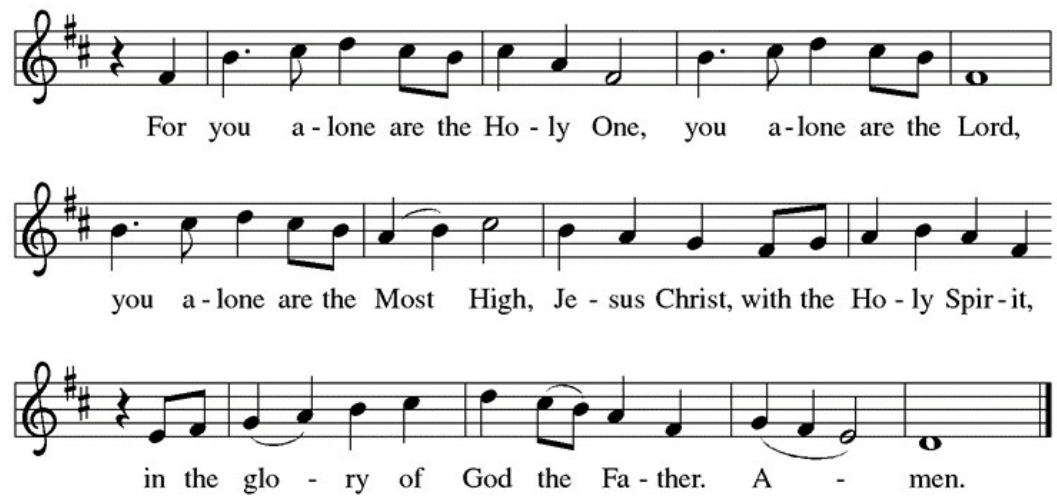


you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Continued on next page



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

A reading from Isaiah:

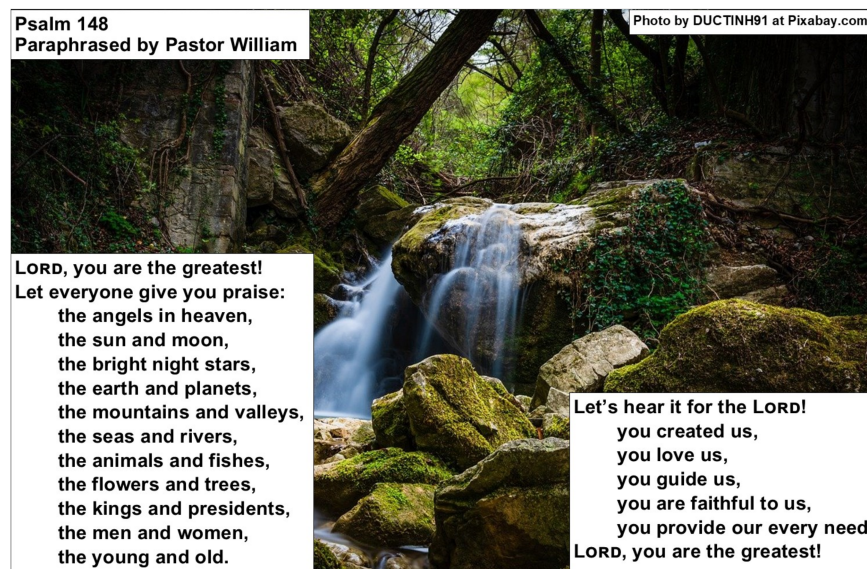
(Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Pew Bible, Old Testament, page 536)

The reading concludes with:

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm Paraphrase
 (Read responsively
 the indented lines)



Psalm 148
 Paraphrased by Pastor William

Photo by DUCTINH91 at Pixabay.com

LORD, you are the greatest!
 Let everyone give you praise:
 the angels in heaven,
 the sun and moon,
 the bright night stars,
 the earth and planets,
 the mountains and valleys,
 the seas and rivers,
 the animals and fishes,
 the flowers and trees,
 the kings and presidents,
 the men and women,
 the young and old.

Let's hear it for the LORD!
 you created us,
 you love us,
 you guide us,
 you are faithful to us,
 you provide our every need.
LORD, you are the greatest!

A reading from Galatians:

(Galatians 4:4-7 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 145)

The reading concludes with:
Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Please note, we do not stand for the Gospel when there is no communion

The holy gospel according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord

(Luke 2:22-40, Pew Bible,
New Testament, page 44)

The reading concludes with:
The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Video Sermon

Please stand as you are able


O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence for personal prayer

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you for the life of our birthday sibling,

Shirley Cary, Peggy Ingalls, Linda Tvorik, Gracie Haga and Dave Palumbo

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

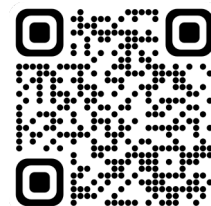
The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan QR code for mobile giving

PC = <https://onrealm.org/ZionLutheranChurchNC/give/now>

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



Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,

I gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to me. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.

Announcements

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless us now and forever.

Amen.

*Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the Worship Space.
Then follow it out to join in God's work.*

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will, with God's help. Amen!

Please join in fellowship with a Coffee & Donut Social immediately following!

Postlude: *He is Born*

By: Wolaver

Today's Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Not needed today
Acolyte: Kenadi Medina
Accompanist: Carol McKimm
Audio/Visual Technicians: John Rhodes and Christopher Thompson
Chancel Guild: Darlene Milavickas
Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
Reader: Nick Cignetti
Trustees: John Long and Brian Milek
Worship Leader: Jim Fidler

January 7, 2023 Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Not needed today
Acolyte: LJ Brown
Accompanist: Carol McKimm
Audio/Visual Technicians: John Rhodes & Paul Bagocius
Chancel Guild: Connie Riffle and Lisa Frock
Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
Reader: Laura Thompson
Trustees: Rob Frock and Scott Gross
Worship Leader: Jim Fidler



**This week we pray for:
Kay, Mindy, Fran, Gabe,
Joe, Buddy, Dick, Mollie,
Betty and those affected
by the wars.**

**Submit your prayer requests to Jayne
Schrader at Prayer@Zion-NC.com**


Mary and Joseph follow the law of God (Leviticus 12:1-8 and Exodus 13:2, 12, 15); they present Mary to the priest, and consecrate their first-born (Jesus) to the Lord. While they are doing their duty, an amazing thing happens. A woman, Anna, is recognized as a prophet of God. She tells everyone about Jesus' good news of salvation. This women of 84 is busy doing God's work of spreading the good news of Jesus. What are you women of 84 doing to spread the good news of Jesus? What are you women of a younger age doing? What are you men and children doing?



Luke 2:22-40
Gospel Message from Pr. William

Photo by Gospelimages.com

Luke 2:22-40
Stewardship Moment from Pastor William



Stewardship in the Gospel
 Jesus is consecrated to the Lord, and an 84-year-old woman prophet praises God and tells everyone about Jesus' good news of salvation for the world – the whole world.

Stewardship in our Community
 Our community needs to hear this salvation that is for them. Too many think they are not worth saving. Too many think they do not need saving. Too many couldn't care less. We need more prophets to share the good news of Jesus so all those people can know this good news is for them too.

Stewardship in practice
 Since you know Jesus' good news is for you, you live a freed life; freed from worry and fear, freed to rely upon God instead of yourself. You are also freed to tell others. Freed to share how Jesus' good news has benefited you. Your story of freedom will encourage others to desire some of that for themselves. Let the prophet Anna be your inspiration.

Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church



Time to turn in your Acme Receipts!
Dated August 1, 2023-February 14, 2024!
Collection jars in Coffee Bar Area &

January 13th—4pm



**Mark your calendar!!
 Come and join the fun!!**



The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church, continued

**CLOSED MONDAY JANUARY 1
IN OBSERVANCE OF
NEW YEARS DAY!**



How can I
**SERVE
TODAY?**
**Food Pantry
Needs**

Soup (hearty or
creamy), boxed
cereal, instant
oatmeal

spaghetti sauce, jelly/jam, peanut butter
toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissue



**COFFEE AND
DONUTS AFTER
WORSHIP
SERVICE**


**NO Zoom Bible Discussion
with Pastor Thursday**



Sewing for comforters
every Monday 10:00 am to noon
Contact office for more info on
how to join!



**Stop by for excellent tea, coffee and
sweets at an excellent price!!**

 **Volunteer Opportunities for
Food Pantry &
Shared Goods**
Monday, January 15, 2024
9 - 11 am
Call the office for information or to sign up



**Worship
Ministry
Meeting
January 2
7:00 pm**