

PM: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Manger Medley*

By: Melody Bober

Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church



STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS Intent Card 2026
In recognition of God's generosity toward me (us), and in thankful support of the on-going ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, I (We) intend to:
 Continue to give generously at the same level as 2025
 Initiate giving in 2026
 Increase my giving and I will continue to increase
Additional designated gift: _____
If you are a member of the Stewardship Committee contact me personally
Name: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Note: This is not a binding document



Today's Worship Leaders
Guest Minister: Rev. Steve Johnson
Assisting Minister: George Miller
Acolyte: Eli Haga
Accompanist: Susan Kaschak
Audio/Visual Technicians: John Rhodes and Paul Bagocius
Chancel Guild: Jayne Schrader/ Harriet Bowers
Reader: Mark Denman
Trustees: John Long and Brian Milek
Flowers By: George Miller and Marcia Miller in memory of parents, George Sr and Audrey Miller

December 21st, 2025 Worship Leaders
Guest Minister: Rev. Sprite Johnson
Assisting Minister: Jim Fidler
Acolyte: Ben Keith
Accompanist: Steve Moore
Audio/Visual Technicians: Paul Bagocius/ Chris Thompson
Chancel Guild: Darlene Milavickas/Sally Bunyan
Reader: Renee Keith
Trustees: Rob Frock and Scott Gross
Flowers By: Peggy Ingalls in memory of father, Robert R. Hodge and husband, John Ingalls

**December 14th, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent
Traditional Worship Service**



**Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

349 Lindy Lane Ave. NW
North Canton, Oh 44720
330-499-3909

*Living in Faith,
Known by Love,
Serving like Jesus*

**STAFFED CHILD
CARE**

Available during
worship service.

WIFI = Zion Guest
No password required

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The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and the congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath.

Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress

Congregation responses are in bold

Guest Minister (PM) - Rev. Steve Johnson

Announcements made prior to the start of our service

Prelude: *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* By: Mark Hayes

Please stand as you are able

Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the worship space

Welcome Jesus into our presence

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

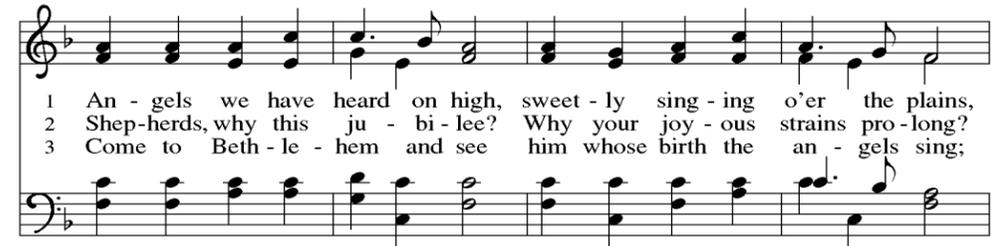


an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

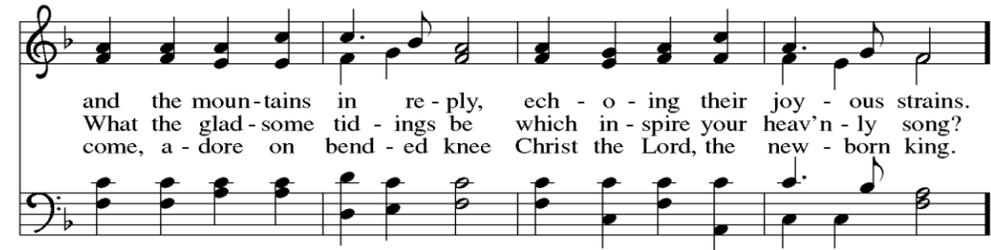
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*Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the Worship Space.
Then follow it out to join in God's work.*

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



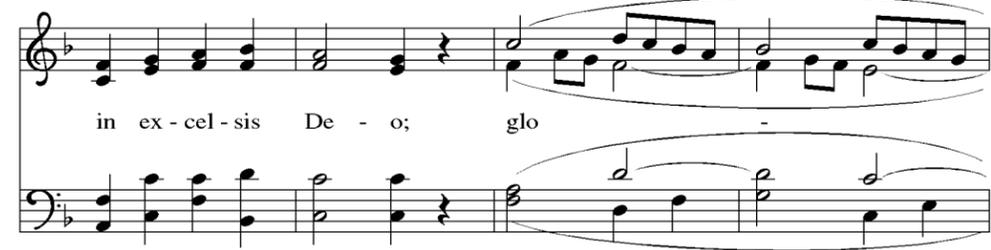
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain

Glo

ri - a

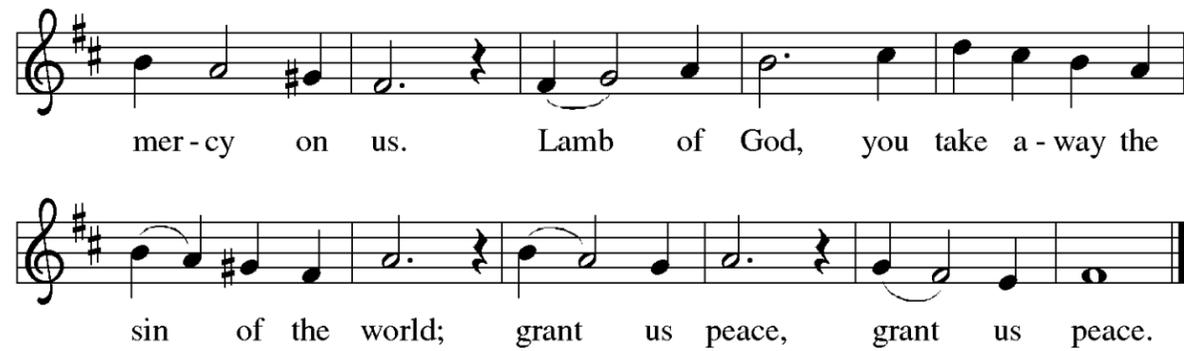


in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.

Communion Music: *While By My Sheep*

By: Mark Hayes

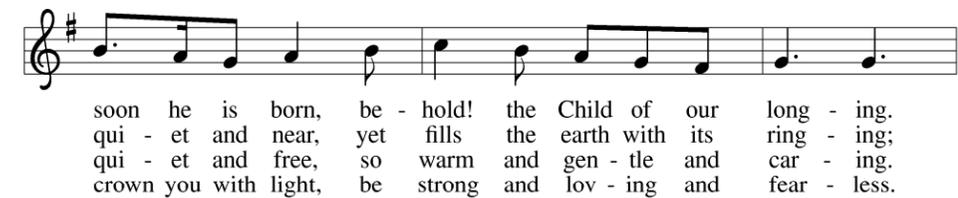
Please stand as you are able

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

AM: Let us pray,
God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

AM: Let us enthusiastically commit to our mission as we pray,
Lord, my hope and strength come from you. Open my eyes and heart to become the person you want me to be; a person who cares for the widows and orphans, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, frees the oppressed, and visits the sick and imprisoned. Give me and this congregation a vision to make a difference in our community. Enliven me to spread the good news of your Son. I pray this all for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

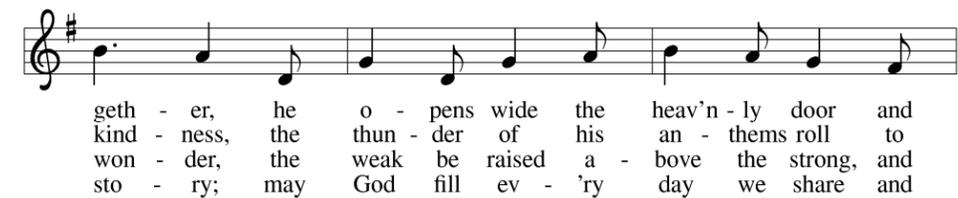
PM: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.
Amen



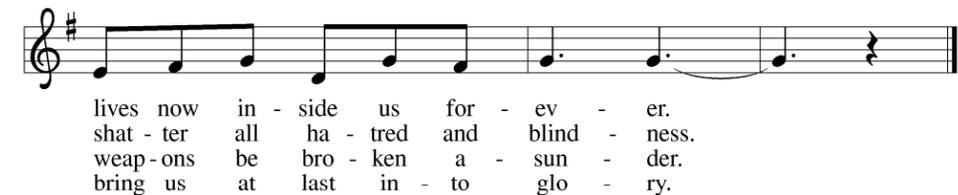
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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Three candles are lit as the following prayer is read

PM: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light these candles to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

Amen

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

PM: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness § You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Assisting minister



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

All



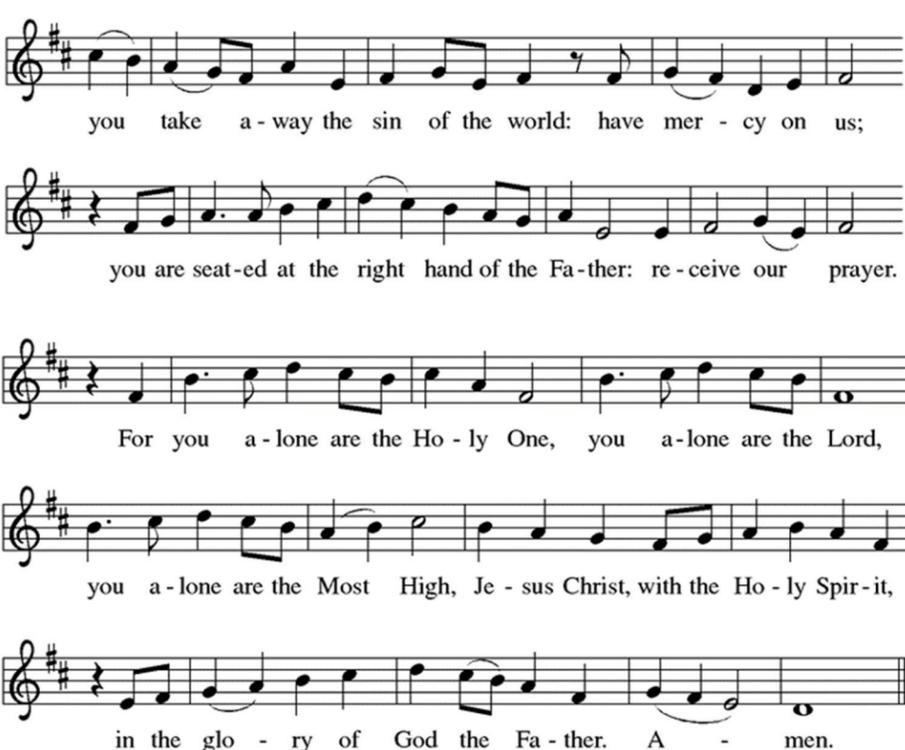
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



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.



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.



in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

PM: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your Light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit

All praise and glory are yours, Holy God, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us enthusiastically pray as Jesus taught 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.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Thanks be to God. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

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

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AM: 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.

PM: 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.

PM: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

Continued on next page

PM: Let us pray,
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through 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

Choir Anthem: *A Time for Advent*

By: Stewart Harris

A reading from Isaiah:

(Isaiah 35: 1-10 Pew Bible Old Testament, page 513)

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

Psalm 146: 5-10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

A reading from James:

(James 5:7-10 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 181)

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

Please stand as you are able

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

(Matthew 11:2-11 Pew Bible,
New Testament, page 8)

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

Please be seated

Children's Time with Pastor

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PM: 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.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Bless this Week's marriage and help us support their life together,
Donna and Jerry Roan, Judy and Jeffery Arter

Thank you for the life of our birthday siblings,
Drew Heller and Linda Lancashire

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.