

ZION WORSHIP
December 3rd, 2023 – 10 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



ZION CARE CONNECTION - VOLUNTEERS

URGENTLY NEEDED – The Zion Care Connection is an outreach ministry that helps our members in need. Volunteers are asked to provide occasional assistance (phone calls, home visits, groceries, meals, transportation) as their schedules permit. Please contact Sharon Joyce at 267-566-5640 or email her at sandbjoyce79@gmail.com.

POT LUCK LUNCHEON – Held by the Zion Ladies Guild on December 11th @ 11 AM.

COFFEE HOUR– Pastor Bill’s last coffee hour with Zion will be held in the fellowship hall after the SSSS on 10 DEC.

HOLIDAY WISHES– Dolly and Jack Patterson’s 20-year old great nephew is serving active duty aboard the USS Bataan. Unfortunately, he will be away from home this Christmas. If anyone would like to send him a Christmas Card to make his holiday special, please mail to:

Corporal Jeremy Wentworth
VMM 162
DET 1
Unit 80114, Box 2-500
FPO AE 09508-0114

CONFESSIONS & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

HYMN: ELW #242 – Awake, Awake and Greet the Morn

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We welcome the beginning of this holy season of Advent with great joy. Jesus Christ is the center of our worship and the true light that dispels the darkness at times that surrounds us! We light this first candle of our Advent Wreath that invites us to embrace the true Light of Christ and the hope for our world that Christ brings us! We pray that our hearts and our world may once again be recreated by the power of God that dwells among us!

The First Advent Candle is lighted!

ADVENT HYMN – Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

Prayer of the Day - Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

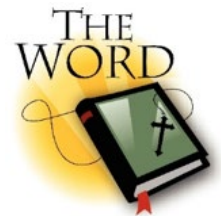
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**





HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark 13:24 - 37; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

REFLECTIONS

HYMN: ELW#260 - The King Shall Come

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. *A brief silence.*

O Lord, call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things.

Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far.

All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. **Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth.**

Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict. **We pray for the end of the war in the Middle East and the innocent victims on every side.**

We pray for our sick especially, names are spoken aloud or quietly before the Lord. (Pause...)

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion – In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW#685 – Take My Life that I may be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Closing Prayer - Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing – The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#249 – On Jordan's Banks

Dismissal: Go in peace. Keep alert for the Lord is near!

Thanks be to God!

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"God calls us to share our faith in Christ with the community in all seasons" ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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