2nd Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025 10:30 AM Holy Communion



MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(717) 757-7626

*congregation stands

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

He Shall Feed His Flock

Handel

Cinda Roteman, piano

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
- C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Long-expected God,
- C: 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.
- P: 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.
- C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Hark the Glad Sound

ELW 239

*Apostolic Greeting

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Verse 1 & 2)

ELW 240

<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u> (M. Dale Good & Barry Shenberger)

A: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

The Lessons

First Lesson: *Isaiah 11:1-10* L: A reading from Isaiah

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
- and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
- L: The Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm72:1-7, 18-19

L: We will now read the psalm responsively:

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

- ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

L: A reading from Romans:

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name":

¹⁰ and again he says.

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people":

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

12 and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles:

in him the gentiles shall hope."

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL: *Matthew 3:1-12*

C: Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

On Jordon's Bank

ELW 249

*The Apostle's Creed

A: Let us affirm our faith together with the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

*Prayers of the Church

A: 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

A: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease and those recovering from surgery and medical procedures, *especially*....., the shut-in members of our congregation and those we name in our hearts.

A brief silence

A: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

*Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

A: Let us share God's peace.

The assembly is invited to spread God's peace in whatever way is most comfortable to them: peace sign, fist bump, elbow bump, air kiss, prayer hands with a bow, heart hands, etc.

Offering

At this time we give thanks for the members of Mount Zion who are able to give financially to further our mission of spreading the Gospel in accordance with God's plan by ministering to the spiritual and human needs of all people through our gifts, talents, and our love in Jesus Christ.

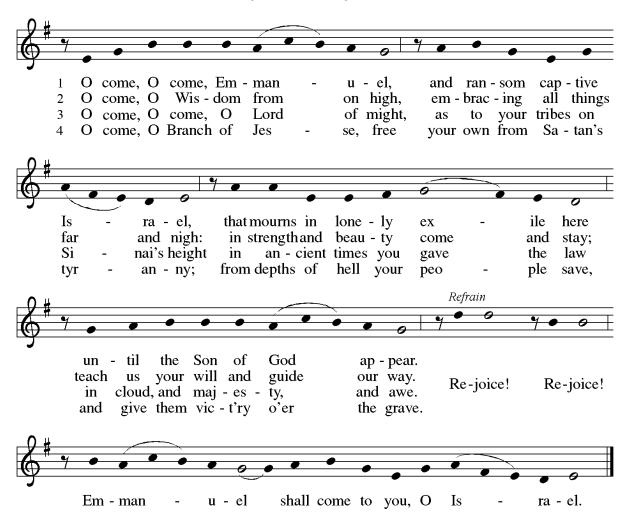
Now the Green Blade Riseth

arr. McCabe

Cinda Roteman, organ

*Offertory Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1& 2) ELW 257



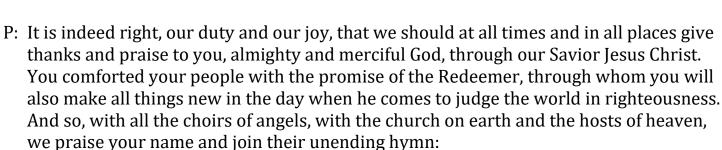
*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray... 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.

C: Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.



P: 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.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer

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

*Invitation to Communion

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Communion Meal

We ask that anyone unable to approach the altar for communion please stay seated and notify the usher. The pastor and assistants will gladly come down to give communion to those who remain seated.

Hymns during distribution:

Prepare the Royal Highway Comfort, Comfort Now My People ELW 264 ELW 256

*Post Communion Prayer

A: 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.

C: Amen.

*Benediction

P: 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.

C: Amen.

*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Rise Up, Shepherds and Follow

arr. Kim

Cinda Roteman, organ

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME: At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

ABOUT TODAY'S LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

Second Lesson: God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

Gospel Lesson: Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

10

Announcements

Welcome Visitor: We thank you for visiting our church family. Please fill out a visitor card and sign our guest register found in the narthex.

Large Print Worship Books are available for those in need of larger print. Ask an usher if you would like one.

We ask that anyone unable to approach the altar during communion stay seated and notify the usher. The Pastor will gladly come down and give communion.

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT ZION Week of December 7

Wednesday	12:30 PM	Bible Study
	6:00PM	Bible Study
Sunday	10:30 AM	Worship
Saturday	4:00 PM	Christmas Party

Assisting Today in Worship

Celebrant Rev. Deborah Shearer-Mahady

Organist Cinda Roteman
Lay Assistant Merris Harvey
Communion Assistant Jessica Nolt
Lector Jessica Nolt
Ushers Jamie &

Reese Kottmyer

Cashier Brian Hinderer Camera Abby Gibb

Mt. Zion Prayer List

Continue to pray for: Raven Ambrose, Bonita Anderson, Fran Anderson, Jerry Arnold, Shannon Arnold, Janet Shermyer Berkheimer, Lauren Beyer, Jacklyn Billet, James Billet, Mary Bishop, Mary Sue Bottstein, Joan Brenner, Joyce Brown, Ralph Brown, Robert Brown, the family of Robert Brown, Sarah Brown, Scott Brown, Ted Brown, Eric Bruner, Joseph Bruggerman, Julie Christy, Jess Combs, Phyllis Comery, Ian Conover, Billee Couch, Tim Couch, Lizzy Cowit, Steven Cowit, Tana Cox, Jason Crowley, Madeline Crowley, Lynn Deitzer, Winnie & Tom Demler, Dee DeVeny, Annie Diehl, Gerri Deller, Kendall Dellinger, Zoe Doll, Andrew Doughty, Joe Ellis, Carol Emswiler, Layla Esteves, Pastor Courtney Erzkus, Chris Farmer, Pam Fay, Dudley Fink, Jason Frederick, Martha Frederick, Scott Frederick, Jacinda Frigm, Gloriann Green, Rev. Donald Green, Lonnie Ginter, Ronnie Ginter Ir., Gina Goodrich, Linda Grone, Jeannie Grove, Bob Gundlach, Mary & Tom Haberkorn, Jay Hammel, Dolly Harbolt, Donna Hayes, Mike Healey, Alicia Hedrick, George Heller, Sharon Harvey, Brian Hinderer, Ruth Hoak, Linda Hodgson, Bob Hoffheins, Heather Hoffman, Dennis Hummel, Carol Johnson, Colleen Jones, Gladysmae Keeney, Jolene Klinger, Gene Krisukas, Mike Kowslik, Sarah Kuhn, Kelly Lehr, Lou Ann Leibensperger, Jean Leiphart, Kacie Longenberger, Heather Luchka, Dick Lynn, Bob Lyon, Fran Marple, Brad March, Sharon March, Amy Martzall, Cindy McDaniel, Rose McGowan, Kenneth & Sue Miller, Sally Miller, Jennifer Mitterholtzer, Jodi Mitterholtzer, Matthew Mitterholtzer, Otto Mitterholtzer, Rebecca Mitterholtzer, E.T. Moore, Angy-Mike Mossengo, David Murphy, Sandy Murphy, Ellen Myers, Karen Naugle, Tom Needhum, Sandy Nelson, Nancy & Lou Orndorff, Deb Overly, Sue Pries, Ben Renner, Alison Reppert, Carrie Roman, Jeff Sargen, Kaeley Saylor, Craig Schaszberger, Joan Schildt, William Schmeed, Maxine & Larry Shaffer, Tom Shaffer, Anthony Shaw, Zach Shiffer, Rick Shreve, Heather Smith, Condoda Smith-Boyle, Heidi Snyder, Thomas Somerville, Candy Stambaugh, Judy Stambaugh, Herb Stauffer, Bud Stevens, Carol Stickles, Lisa Striebig, Jennifer Torok, Debra Tracey, Micheal Tudino, Bernnie Truax, Jace Valenti, Jane Van Zant, David Walker, Andrew Walter, Ruth Ward, Bob Warren, Bonnie Warren, Bill Weaver, Bruce Weaver, Dodie Weaver, Victor White, Bob Wolf, Larry Wood, Donald Zepp, Rich Zerbe, Ben Zelinski, and the shut-in members of our parish.

The Prayer List is reviewed each month. Though names may remain on the prayer list for an unlimited time, periodic updates are appreciated. Contact KATHIE BOOP (717-855-6763) for any additions or subtractions from the prayer list. If a name has been mistakenly deleted, please notify KATHIE BOOP.

Financial Snapshot for December 01, 2025

FULTON BANK

Administration	\$ 2,517.25
Pastor's Discretionary	\$ 207.51
Rental	\$ 709.70
Memorial @ .02%	\$ 1,470.14
Special Needs	\$ 1,234.56

Commercial Loan @ Fulton Bank \$20,000 at 8.77% payments begin December 1st \$414.36

CITIZENS BANK

Business Checking @ .05%	\$ 3,100.00
Business Money Market @.02%	\$ 5,076.35
6 mo CD @4%	\$ 91,197.85

Total Contributions - Envelope offering: November 23rd \$1,781 Weekly Budget \$3,430

For November we ended \$ 78 over budget, but for year to date we are short for the year \$ 4,602 We have time to give - Advent, Christmas, and year-end giving are occurring in December. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help. Thank you very much.

Contributions to Sound System for November \$502 Monthly Budget \$867 Year to date \$4,195 We only need \$572 to make our 2025 goal of \$5,200. Our goal in 2026 is \$10,400 or \$5.00 per week. PLEASE USE GREEN ENVELOPE FOR YOUR \$5 PER WEEK OFFERING FOR THE SOUND SYSTEM

Bills paid but not yet cleared bank \$8,086.07 against Admin \$2,5117.25

Estimated monthly bills as of December 1, 2025 \$ 29,467.23

Food Bank: November: Deposits \$1,336 Expenses \$875 Balance \$1,115.08

Received grant of \$375 from Lower Susquehanna Synod

Thank you for remembering our consecrated commitment we made in 2024; just as God is faithful to His promises to us, we are faithful to our promises to Him.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Swords, Treasurer at mtzionyorktreasurer@gmail.com.

or call at 717-503-0527 (cell)

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si ah: let the light ban-ish dark ness.



shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills He the prom - ise. shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly He lead them home-ward. your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King Lift of glo - ry. com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights He be shin - ing!

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Prepare the Royal Highway



Comfort, Comfort Now My People



MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Debbie Mahady
Sexton: Rod Robles
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Gable
Treasurer: Kathy Swords
Financial Secretary: Brian Hinderer
Minister of Music, Emeritus: Sue Hoffheins

OUR MISSION

To spread the Gospel in accordance with God's plan by ministering to the spiritual and human needs of all people through our gifts, talents, and our love in Jesus Christ.

COME TO THE BANQUET

On a weekly basis, Mount Zion Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion. God invites all who believe in the Real Presence in, with, and under the bread and wine to come to the banquet table of grace. Through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God calls us to be a part of His gracious love.

Therefore, Mount Zion Lutheran Church will not be similar to the world. We will not conform to a life that separates, nor that categorizes and justifies acts of elitism and lifestyles built on anxiety. We are one body, as we come together knowing that God reconciles all sinners. God calls us all to repent and ask for forgiveness – to be loved for who we are, people of God empowered to share His love to the entire world. We at Mount Zion will always extend an invitation to all to join us at the banquet table of grace.

If you would rather have a blessing instead of communion, place your hand over your heart, and the pastor will bless you.

If you have a spiritual or pastoral need, please contact Pastor Debbie at (717) 503-2729 or mtzionyorkpastordm@gmail.com . She will get back to you ASAP. Or stop in the office if she is in.

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