

Christmas Eve Worship Service

# *Zion Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)*

*7:00 p.m. ~ December 24, 2024*

## *Christmas Eve Worship*



**WELCOME TO ZION.** It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

*Today is Christmas Eve Day. During the Christmas season, the Church focuses on the salvation of mankind who came in human flesh. The white paraments are used to signify the Godhead, eternity, perfection, joy and purity.*

**BATHROOMS** are open. They are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT** is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

**VISITORS** are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

For most of you, putting on perfume, cologne, or aftershave before coming to church is just routine. But for a growing number of us in the congregation, those smells will lead to nausea, headaches, shortness of breath, and migraines. We are asking if you could please re-evaluate your use of fragrances before you come to church, especially during the winter months when the enclosed heated space will magnify the effects of the fragrances. If you could wait until you get home from church to spritz on the smells, it would be greatly appreciated!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES (Proverbs 9:10; Isaiah 41:9b-10)

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

**Congregation: and his gospel is peace.**

Pastor: You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off;

**Congregation: fear not, for I am with you;**

Pastor: be not dismayed, for I am your God;

**Congregation: I will strengthen you, I will help you,**

Pastor: I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (Based on 1 John 1:8-9)

Pastor: The apostle John tells us that if we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. But, he also promises that if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Trusting this promise, we confess our sins to God our Father.

**Congregation: Merciful Father, we confess to you that we are sinful in both who we are and how we live. Instead of trusting your promises and obeying your will, we have lived to follow our own desires and seek the approval of people. We have not loved others as you have called us to do, but used them for our own personal gain. We deserve your just punishment. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who was born to die and rise for our salvation, have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins.**

*(Please take a moment of silence to confess your sins to God.)*

Pastor: Almighty God, our Father, has graciously heard your cry for mercy. He sent his only begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin on the cross and save us from death. In this way, Jesus has forgiven you all your sins. Tonight, I stand before you to announce his grace to you and proclaim that you are forgiven for his sake! In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

**Congregation: Amen. His gospel is peace!**

HYMN: *CW 12*

“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

ADVENT

## 12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.

Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

*Please stand*

## SERMON TEXT AND THEME:

Isaiah 9:6-7 <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this. (EHV)

# No Fear of Man

*Lighting of the candles*

Psalm 96

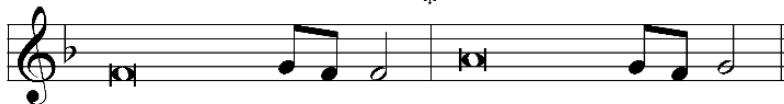
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### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

### *Psalm tone*



Sing to the LORD, praise his name;\*  
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,\*  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;\*  
tremble before him, all the earth.

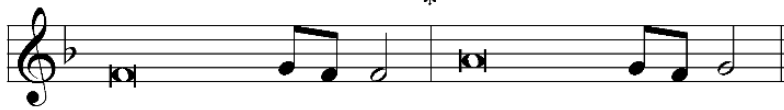
### *Refrain*

*Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

*Psalm tone*



Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;\*

let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.\*

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

for he comes to judge the world in righteousness\*

and the peoples in his truth.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

Refrain Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Heavenly Father, on this holy night, we come before you in awe and wonder, remembering the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, born for us in Bethlehem. In his birth, we see your power wrapped in humility, your greatness displayed through weakness. Though he came as a child, he reigns as our Savior and King, and we are grateful that through him, we belong to your family forever.

Lord, as we celebrate the miracle of Christmas, we ask that you calm our hearts and free us from the fear of others' opinions, the need to prove ourselves, and the pressures of this world. Remind us that in Christ, we are fully loved, fully accepted, fully provided

for, and fully forgiven. May this Christmas be a time filled with your peace and joy, knowing that the same Christ who came to earth will come again in glory to reign forever. In his precious name, we pray. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**HYMN:** *CW 67* (verse 1)

**“What Child Is This”**

**1 What child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**FIRST LESSON**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. <sup>4</sup>For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David’s throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this. (EHV)

**HYMN:** *CW 67* (verse 2)

**“What Child Is This”**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he’ll bear for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works. <sup>15</sup> Keep telling people these things. Continue to encourage and rebuke with full authority. Let no one ignore you. (EHV)

**HYMN:** *CW 67* (verse 3)

**“What Child Is This”**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>2</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,



which the Lord has made known to us.”<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child.<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.  
(EHV)

HYMN: *CW 61*

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

CHRISTMAS

61

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the  
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3 Hail, the heav’n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,  
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,  
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!” Joy - ful, all you  
Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the  
Ris’n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
God-head see, Hail th’ in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th’ an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,  
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

*Refrain*

born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald  
 give us sec - ond birth.

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, abr., alt.

Tune: MENDELSSOHN (77 77 D with Refrain) Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47, alt.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



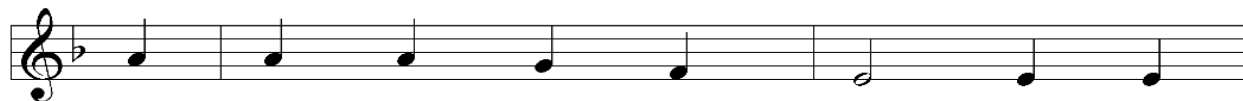
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



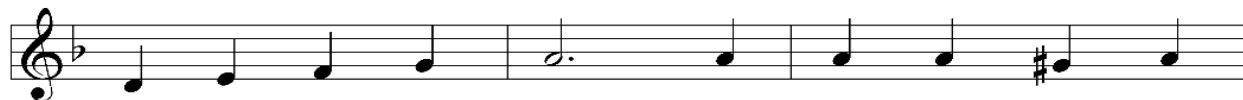
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And  
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The  
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To  
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.  
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of  
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To  
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -  
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 God the King And peace to all the earth.  
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93, abr., alt.

Tune: ST. LOUIS (86 446 76 446) Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

**BENEDICTION** (*Isaiah 9:6*)

Pastor: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

**Congregation:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: The Almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you with peace.

**Congregation:** His gospel is peace! Amen!

**CLOSING HYMN:** *CW 60* (*Sunday School sings: verses 1-2 Congregation sing verse 3*)

**“Silent Night! Holy Night”**

CHRISTMAS

**60**

**Silent Night! Holy Night**



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is  
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds  
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin  
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from  
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so  
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,  
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Officers

Accompanist: Stephanie Sitzman

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

\*ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

***A Blessed Christmas to you all!***

***Those who purchased a poinsettia plant for our Christmas services may take the plants with you after this morning's service.***

***We invite you to return Sunday, December 29 as our Christmas celebration continues. Our service will begin at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study.***



**2024 Christmas Poinsettias**



**In Memory of . . .**

In memory of our brother Bill Vitale and sister Thekla Schneider  
from Russ and Mona Vitale

In memory of loved ones from Ken and Gail Heusman

In memory of Dave Holsen and Arvin Schneck from Bryan and Deanna Schneck

In memory of Kenneth and Margaret Pitcher from Carol Pitcher

In memory of loved ones from Bari and Wendy Waltz

In memory of Becki Brasher and Birdie Duby (Paula's mom) from Mark and Paula Kipf

In memory of Gary Nied from Beth and family

In memory of Dannie M. Younglove, Hazel Younglove, and Annette Younglove  
from Lee A. Younglove

In memory of Larry Miller and Tim Miller from Annette Miller and family

In memory of Roger & Della Premo and Frank & Evelyn Tomczak  
from Frank and Kris Tomczak

In memory of Adam, Muriel, and Richard Yeager from Tom and Ruth Moran

In memory of Rita Raasch, Jim & Norma Bechberger, and Harry and Frieda Raasch  
from Howard Raasch and Juergen and Lorrie Koening

In memory of parents Leonard and Leona Selvidge and Bobby Selvidge  
from Linda Selvidge

In memory of Ernest & Margaret Howerton and Urban & Mary Jane Trowbridge  
from Robert and Joyce Trowbridge

In memory of Glen Eckel from Jackie Eckel

In memory of Lyle Kull, Kevin Kull, and Albert Kull from Maxine Kull

## **For Blessings Received . . .**

Alan and Dottie Bober

Ray and Brenda Chandonnet

Jesus from Ray and Melanie Palmatier

Grandchildren from Larry and Deb Sachs

Linda Selvidge Family from Linda Selvidge

Sarah, Otto, Kirsten, Nigel and Zachariah from Jim and Kathy Vanisacker