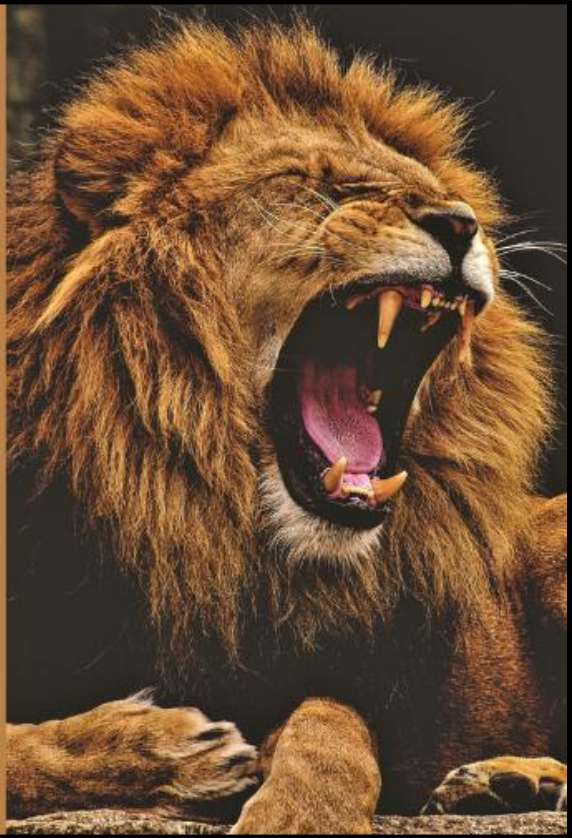


**Daniel's  
hope in  
God**



**First Sunday of Advent**  
*A Liturgy of Everlasting Light*  
**Candle of Hope**

**December 1, 2024 + 9am**

**Zion-Public WiFi password: Zion54484**  
**Congregational responses are in BOLD.**

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

*\*The communion bread is homemade by congregation members and contains gluten and honey. For those with allergies or sensitivities, an alternative will be provided upon request.\**

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or [pastoramy@zionstratford.org](mailto:pastoramy@zionstratford.org).

**Ministers:** All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Pastor:** Rev. Amy Heinz

**Administrative Assistant:** Kathy Busche

**Organists:** Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

**Custodian:** Maryel Schoenfuss

**Missionaries:** Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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## PRELUDE

### CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### We Gather in Grace

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

During Advent, God's promise illuminates our hope.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of fear, we place our hope in the One who brings peace.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that our hope is the everlasting God who pierces the darkness of this world and reaches into the brokenness of our lives, granting the promise of a new tomorrow.

### INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; +Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

**Amen**

### HYMN

*"Hark, the Glad Sound"*

**ELW 239**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness rather than adding to the light.

God of Love and Light,

**we confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated, and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely. Forgive us Jesus, Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness, and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.  
**Amen.**

**GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**



Lord, have mer - cy\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_ on\_ us.  
 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.\_ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_ to our dark - ness. Fill us\_ with your ho - ly love.  
 Heal all\_ con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us\_ how to\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_ bind.  
 Show us how to love our\_ neigh - bor. Run to those who\_ cry for\_ help.



Breathe new\_ life in - to our\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_ hearts and minds.  
 Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

## HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed

joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**God of deliverance,**

**Liberate all who are endangered for the sake of their faith, and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshipping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.**

**Amen.**

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

***"Sounds of Advent"***

**ZLC Choir**

## We Hear the Word of God

**COMPLEMENTARY READING**

**Luke 23:1-5**

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." <sup>3</sup>Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." <sup>4</sup>Then Pilate

said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for an accusation against this man.” <sup>5</sup> But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

## **READING**

## **Daniel 6:12-27**

<sup>12</sup> Then [the king’s men] approached the king and said concerning the interdict, “O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to any god or human, within thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of lions?” The king answered, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup> Then they responded to the king, “Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.”

<sup>14</sup> When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. <sup>15</sup> Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no entertainment was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

<sup>19</sup> Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hurried to the den of lions. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God,

has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." <sup>23</sup> Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God. <sup>24</sup> The king gave a command, and those who had maliciously accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! <sup>26</sup> I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people shall tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,  
enduring forever.

His kingdom shall never be destroyed,  
and his dominion has no end.

<sup>27</sup> He delivers and rescues;  
he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth;  
he has saved Daniel  
from the power of the lions."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Rev. Diane House

**HYMN**

*"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"*

**ELW 241**

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Keep watch, O Lord, with all who work or watch or weep, and in your great mercy, give ear to our prayers for all.

God of hope.

be with all who are waiting for a miracle.

Waiting for God;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for justice;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a diagnosis;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a phone call;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a job;

**hear our fervent prayer.**



waiting for death;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for inspiration;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for the right moment;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for the fighting to stop;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for day to dawn;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

waiting for a baby to be born;

**hear our fervent prayer.**

Hear our cries as they rise to your throne,  
cries from those who wait in God's house.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel.

**Amen.\*\***

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **We Share the Meal**

### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

**ELW 294 v3**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of Light, our world can be a very dark place. Therefore, we return to you the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.\*\***

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old kept a perpetual fire burning in the temple to remind us that God is the light which cannot be extinguished.

Finally, Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full of grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. We are commanded not to hide this light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. - God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes. Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God. -

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

*"O Lamb of God" (to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

**ELW 490**

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

**ELW 256**

## BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### We Serve the World in God's Name

## BENEDICTION

In gratitude to God, and empowered by the Spirit, let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying: Come, Lord Jesus! And may God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG

*"Fling Wide the Door"*

**ELW 259 v1,4**

## DISMISSAL

Lay aside works of darkness, put on the armor of light, and go in peace,

**with open doors, open hearts, and open hands.**

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

Most liturgical texts were written and/or adapted by David Eck, ©2011. The words to the *Kyrie*, *Hymn of Praise*, *Sanctus*, and *Lamb of God* were written and/or adapted by David Eck, ©2011. All tunes are traditional carols and traditional arrangements with no copyright restrictions. Additional liturgical texts have been adapted for local use by the Rev. Amy Heinz.

# Notes, Prayers, and Thoughts

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## Zion Lutheran Church

*Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands*

213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>