



Second Sunday of Advent
A Liturgy of Everlasting Light
Candle of Peace

December 8, 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 or Pastor Amy Heinz at 608.498.5772 or 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

* From Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress,
License #23254, One License #A-715097

**Reprinted and adapted for local use by permission from *The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition*, ©2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

PRELUDE

CENTERING AND BELLS' CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

We Gather in Grace

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world.

For any who have grown weary of waiting:

God speaks, "Peace. Be still."

For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

God speaks, "Peace. Be still."

For any whose lips have been silenced:

God speaks, "Peace. Be still."

This morning we light two candles. The first candle reminds us in a dark and weary world, that our hope lies securely in the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. The second candle radiates God's perfect peace to calm our restless souls. As we continue our journey, let us be encouraged with hope and comforted with peace.

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

Spirit of the Living God,

**you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the
brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and shower
your people with the oil of gladness. We will rejoice in the Lord
for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus
Christ, our salvation.**

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

COMPLEMENTARY READING

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

READING

Isaiah 61:1-11

¹ The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks;
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines,
⁶ but you shall be called priests of the LORD;
you shall be named ministers of our God;
you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,
and in their riches you shall glory.
⁷ Because their shame was double
and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot,
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
everlasting joy shall be theirs.

⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Stirring up the Locals

Rev. Amy Heinz

HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW 256 v1,3

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)

“We Come to the Hungry Feast” **ELW 479**

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” **ELW 488**

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

“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn” **ELW 242 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

Zion Lutheran Church

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

213501 Legacy Street

Stratford, WI 54484-5908

715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>