



JOYFUL NOISE

Second Sunday after Christmas

A Liturgy of Everlasting Light

Christmas Hymn Sing

Worship without Holy Communion

January 5, 2025 + 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

We Gather in Grace

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**

COMMENTARY / READING

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

ELW 288

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Lord,

you give us voices to sing of your glorious faithfulness. Prepare us to live out the promise of your son and give us courage to follow him in your love.

Amen.

We Hear the Word of God

COMMENTARY/READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

ELW 269

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.

There will be a brief silence after each petition for those present to speak their concerns aloud.

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.

OFFERING

COMMENTARY/READING

Micah 6:6-8

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

ELW 294

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 LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMENTARY/READING

Psalm 98:1-4

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

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.

Prayers of intercession: Copyright Carol Penner www.leadinginworship.com, adapted as a litany 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>