

Second Sunday of Advent



December 4, 2016 + 11:00 am

**Zion Lutheran Church
Lexington, South Carolina**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad you have come to worship this day!

We especially welcome our Visitors and Guests!

We hope you feel right at home here at Zion. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you. You are invited to fill out a Visitor's Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this community of faith and learning more about the mission and ministry of Zion. For more information about Zion Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, contact the church office (803) 356-2297, nathan@zionlexsc.com or visit our website, www.zionlexsc.com.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who seek Christ's gift of grace. Visitors who receive Holy Communion in their home congregations are invited to share in this sacrament of grace. Gluten free bread is available to those with allergies. You may indicate this need to the pastor during communion distribution. Children who are not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.



OUR STAFFED NURSERY is available for young children during worship. The nursery is located through the narthex/lobby area and down the hall to the right.

HYMNS not printed in the bulletin are in the back of the red WORSHIP hymnal.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.

+ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT +

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

We kneel. Silence is kept for confession and meditation.

God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We have ignored our neighbors in need and have failed in the labor of justice and peace. We have expected too little of ourselves. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news and live in hope, for your God comes to you. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

We stand.

GATHERING HYMN # 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

GREETING

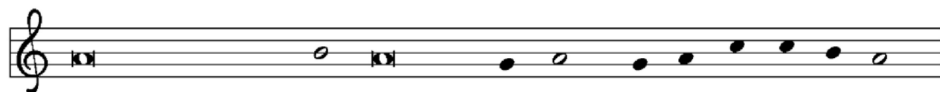
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

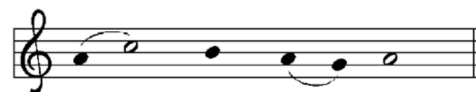


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

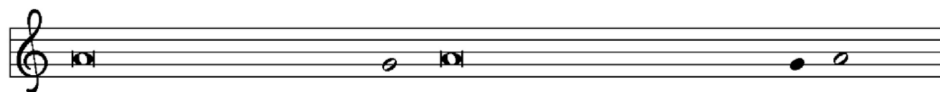
Lord, have mer - cy.



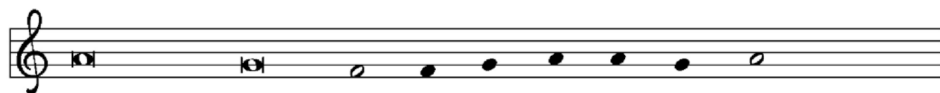
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



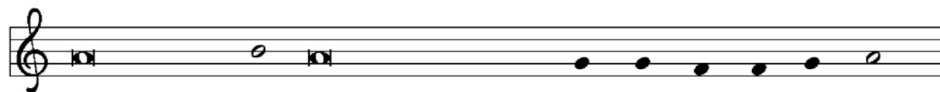
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The 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. ³His 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; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They 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.

¹⁰On 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

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;**

³that 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.**

⁵May 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.**

⁷In his time may the 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!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Young children are invited forward to the chancel steps at this time.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Following the wreath lighting, children ages 3 through 3rd Grade may go to
Children's Church. Meet the Children's Church leaders at the red door at the back
of the church. Children will return from Children's Church during the offering.*

ADVENT HYMN # 257 (verses 3-4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

We stand.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the
prophet Isaiah Spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare
the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' "

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

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to
them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear
fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that
does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹”I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We sit.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We share our gifts for those in need and for the mission of the church.

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN (verse 2)

Prepare the Royal Highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

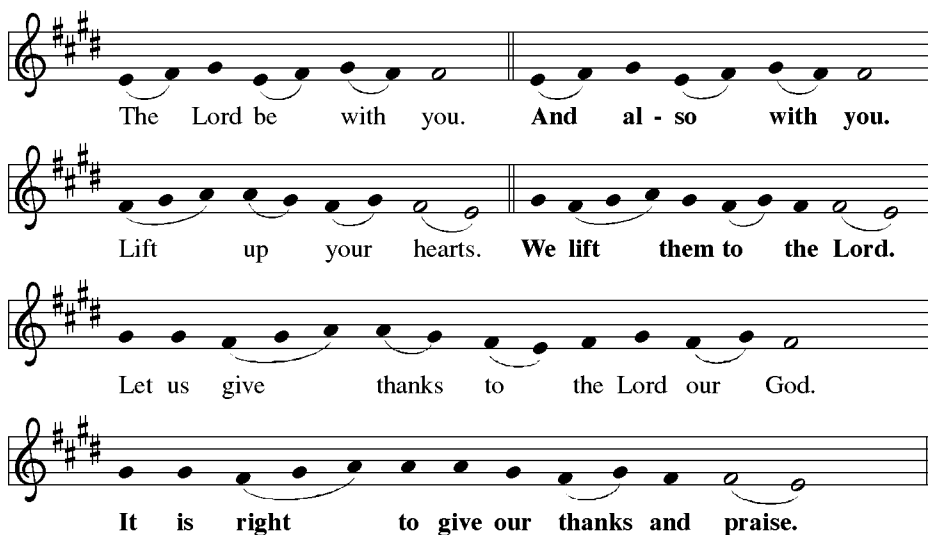


Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Savior of the nations come, **make your home here in us. Bless the gifts we offer and feed us with your love, that our faith may shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

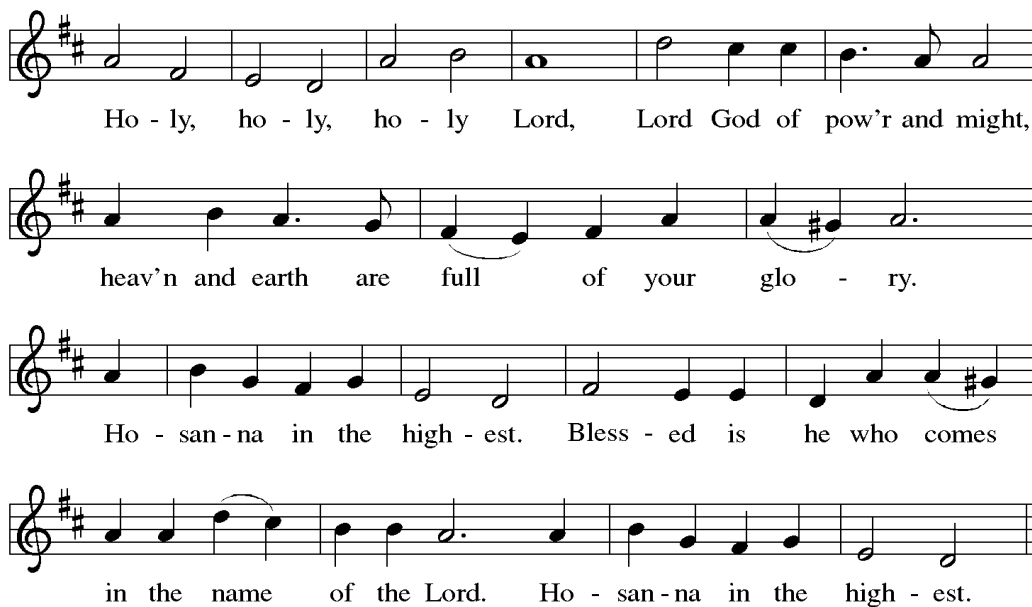
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, the Beginning and The End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you...
in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation. **Amen.**

We sit.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Christ welcomes you to this feast of the baptized!

We receive communion today around the altar rail.

Proceed to the front by the side aisle as the ushers direct you.

Return to your seat by the center aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

We stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 239

Hark the Glad Sound

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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