

The Nativity of our Lord



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2016 + 7:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
Lexington, South Carolina

Welcome to Christmas Eve at Zion Lutheran Church!

We are glad you have come to worship on this holy night. The good news of Christmas is for all. God has sent his Son into all the world to be Christ and Savior. May tonight's celebration of Jesus' birth fill your life with God's purest gifts of peace and joy.

A Special Word of Welcome to all visitors and guests and those who are worshipping at Zion for the first time. We are glad that you are here and hope you feel right at home 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, zionchurch@zionlexsc.com or visit our website, zionlexsc.com.

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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.

ALL HYMNS FOR WORSHIP are from the red WORSHIP hymnal in the pew rack.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS + 6:30pm

A Special Time of Preservice Music



O Come, All Ye Faithful

McDonald, Wade
Organ

*Angels We Have Heard on High
The Birthday of a King*

French Carol
Neidlinger
Children's Choir
David Gragg, George Nesmith, Morgan Nesmith

Dona Nobis Pacem

Traditional Canon, Wagner
Handbell Choir

Away in a Manger, A Cradle Prayer

Murray, St. James, Garrett
Riley Burn, vocalist

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

German Carol, Maynard
Wanda Wingard, flute

He Is Born

Traditional French Carol, Hayes
Choir

I Wonder as I Wander

Appalachian Folk tune, Maynard
Jamie Hampton, flute

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head

American Folk Song, Edmunds
Jonathan Gragg, vocalist

Behold the Star

Traditional spiritual, Page
Handbell Choir

O Holy Night

Adam, Martin
Choir, James Gragg, soloist

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP + 7:00pm

We stand.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

ENTRANCE HYMN # 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

GREETING

Today Christ is born!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Choir sings the first line. The congregation sings beginning at All.



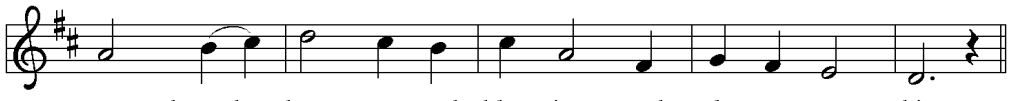
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

Children will receive bells at the end of the Children's Sermon. They are invited to ring these during the parts of worship marked with a



FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

We remain seated.

PSALM HYMN # 295

Of the Father's Love Begotten

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

We stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High (printed below)

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.



**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!!!**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN # 289

Angels We Have Heard on High (printed below)

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**



We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 282

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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

Let us pray for all those in need, in the name of the one who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

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

O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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 sit.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know? Lowry, Greene, Shrader

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great I AM!

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN # 296

What Child Is This

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 you 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, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to pray.

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

The bread of life comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come and receive into the manger of your hands this gift of God. **Amen.**

We sit.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Christ welcomes you to this feast of the baptized!

We receive communion today by intinction at the head of the center aisle.

As the ushers direct you, proceed down the center aisle in two lines.

Hold the bread given to you and continue toward the side aisle nearest you to receive the chalice into which you may dip your bread.

Return to your seat by the side aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Night of Silence, Silent Night, Kantor, Mohr

Jamie Hampton and Addie Phillips, duet

O Little Town of Bethlehem, Redner, Roberts

Jamie Hampton and Wanda Wingard, flute



We stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

The sanctuary lights are dimmed. The Presiding Minister lights the candles of assisting ministers and ushers who then light the candles of the congregation.

As the light is passed, we hear the Christmas verses.

When all candles are lighted, we sing the Candlelight Hymn (below).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CANDLELIGHT HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night! (printed below)

**1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BENEDICTION

May Christ, born in time to bring endless peace, guide your days and years in righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

*You may extinguish your candle at this time.
Return them to the baskets in the back as you exit.*

SENDING HYMN # 267

Joy to the World



SENDING

On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us.

Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

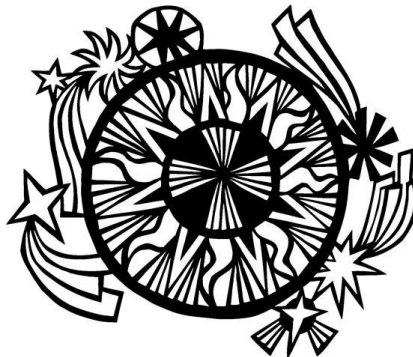
Thanks be to God!!!

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World! Handel, Hustad
Christmas Postlude on In Dulci Jubilo, Martin*

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SERVING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Presiding Minister	Rev. Nathan T. Gragg
Assisting Minister	Craig Balch
Readers	Rev. Marion Clark, retired Darlene Weight, AIM, retired
Communion Assistants	Eileen Leaphart, Rayna Kleckley
Crucifer	Dalton Olson
Bible Bearer	Zach Ledford
Acolyte	Connor Burn
Ushers	Al & Carla Fallaw, Tom & Mary Nell Panyard, Suzanne Whyte
Nursery Attendant	Wendy Nesmith
Chancel and Altar	Carol Nordquist, Eileen Leaphart, Darlene Weight
Director of Music, Organ, Piano	Julie Branham
Trumpet	Drew Branham
French Horn	Brighton Barrineau
Euphonium	Heath Branham
Flute	Jamie Hampton, Wanda Wingard
Choir	Roger Anderson, Sue Anderson, Heath Branham, James Gragg, Jonathan Gragg, Jamie Hampton, Melba Ivey, Eileen Leaphart, Carol Nordquist, Bridget Ridgell, Ethel Riley, Darlene Weight
Handbell Choir	Brighton Barrineau, Scott Barrineau, Drew Branham, Julie Branham, Steve Hendrix, Rayna Kleckley, Eileen Leaphart, Bridget Ridgell

The altar arrangement is placed to the glory of God
and in loving memory of her parents Ray and Frances Rikard by Edith Clark.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church

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Sam Mailleue, Second Year Seminarian