

1st Sunday of Advent



December 1, 2019 + 11:00am

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, zionchurch@zionlexsc.com or visit our website, 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 from the red WORSHIP hymnal in the pew rack.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.

+ FIRST 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.

Gracious God, **we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbors. We have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We have failed to share the hope that is in us. We have neglected our call to strive for justice and peace. In your great 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 # 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 3:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

PSALM 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**
"May they prosper who love you.

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

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.*

We stand.

ADVENT HYMN # 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verses 1-2

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

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

Jesus said to the disciples, “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

We sit.

SERMON

**Waiting for the Day when . . .
Swords are turned into Plowshares**
Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We sit.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

ANTHEM

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older

Rayna Kleckley, flute

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN # 715

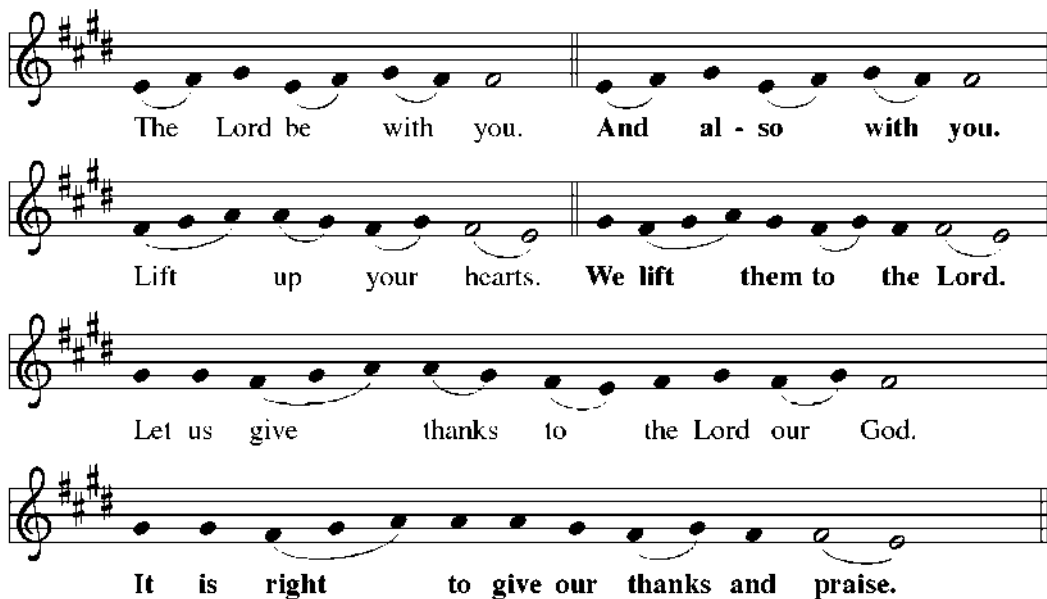
Christ, Be Our Light

Verses 1, 5

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.**

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 . . . with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

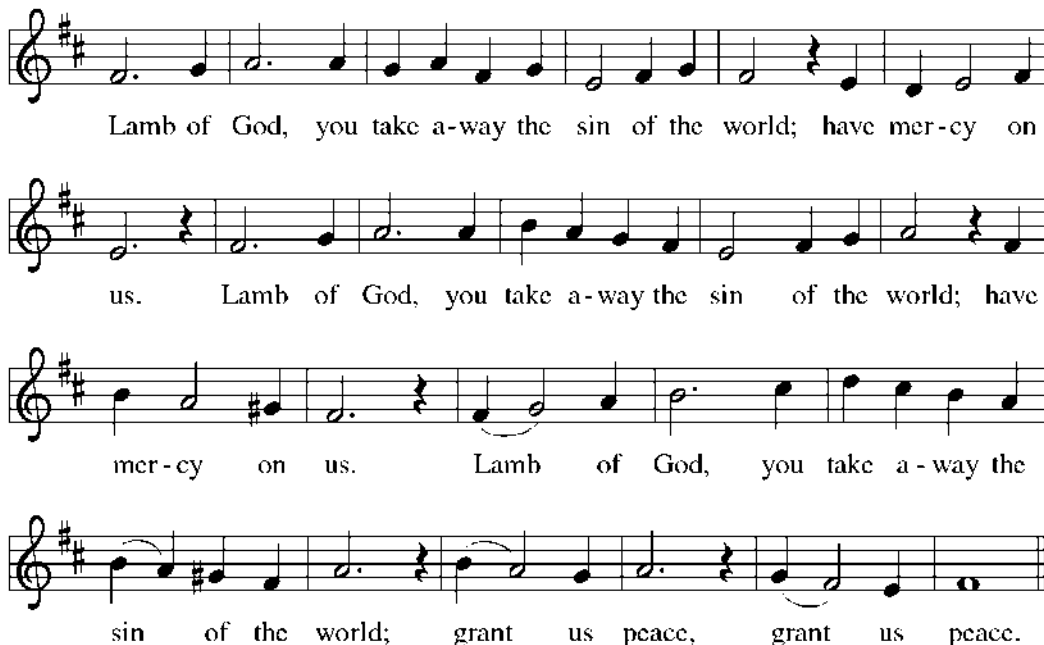
Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good. **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. As the ushers direct you, proceed down the side aisles, in turn take a spot at the rail kneeling or standing as you are comfortable. 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. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare the way of the Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts in holiness until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 244

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Nathan Gragg
Director of Music	Julie Branham
Assisting Minister	Bridgett Ridgell
Reader	Anna Reeside
Communion Assistants	Burns Corley, Sara Rymer
Crucifer	Ainsley Ellisor
Acolyte	Krystall Henwood
Ushers	Dave McKinley, Chris Harmon, Joel Kleckley, Suzanne Riley Whyte
Chancel and Sacraments	Darlene Weight, Althea Hendrix, Wanda Wingard
Children's Church	Nikki Harmon
Nursery	Betsy & Riley Burn
Offering Counters	Russell Grant, Karyn Stoneberg, Bob & Laura McCombs



SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

Assisting Minister	Bridgett Ridgell
Reader	Steve Shumpert
Communion Assistants	Carolette Turner, Darlene Weight
Crucifer	Caroline Beck
Acolyte	Hannah Elrod
Ushers	Dave McKinley, Chris Harmon, Joel Kleckley, Suzanne Riley Whyte
Chancel and Sacraments	Darlene Weight, Althea Hendrix, Wanda Wingard
Children's Church	Wendy Nesmith
Nursery	Donna Corley, Emma & Layla B.
Offering Counters	Russell Grant, Karyn Stoneberg, Bob & Laura McCombs



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