

# 1st Sunday of Advent



**Morning Communion**  
**December 1, 2019 + 8:30am**

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Lexington, South Carolina**

*You are invited to use this time before worship begins  
for quiet prayer and meditation.*

## **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](mailto:zionchurch@zionlexsc.com) or visit our website, [zionlexsc.com](http://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**

*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.**

*We stand.*

**GATHERING HYMN # 242**

***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

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 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In 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. <sup>3</sup>Many 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. <sup>4</sup>He 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. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*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, <sup>36</sup>"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But 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. <sup>44</sup>Therefore 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

*Silence for reflection. Pastoral prayer.*

*We stand.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY # 254**

***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***

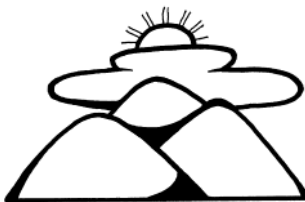
## **NICENE CREED**

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.***

## 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.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER

### 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

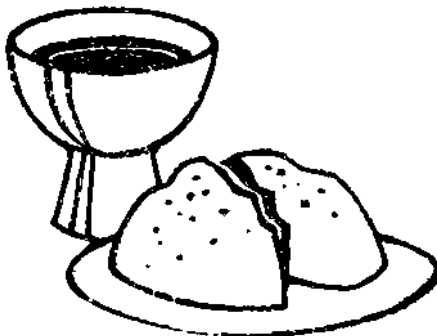
*We sit.*

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*We receive communion this morning at the head of the center aisle.*

*We commune by intinction. Hold your bread to dip in the chalice of wine.*

*You may return to your seat by the side aisles.*



*We remain seated.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We stand.*

**BLESSING**

**SENDING HYMN # 244**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**PEACE**

*We share the Peace of Christ with one another as we depart.*

*Portions printed from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress.  
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #29104.*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989. Division of Christian Education of the  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.  
All rights reserved.*

**+ SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING +**

Presiding Minister  
Director of Music  
Assisting Minister

Pastor Nathan Gragg  
Julie Branham  
Janice Sult



## **Lutheran Church**

Zion Lutheran Church  
226 Corley Mill Road  
Lexington, SC 29072  
(803) 356-2297  
[zionlexsc.com](http://zionlexsc.com)

Rev. Nathan T. Gragg, Pastor  
[Nathan@zionlexsc.com](mailto:Nathan@zionlexsc.com)

Walt Hampton, Director of Youth, Education, Communications  
[Walt@zionlexsc.com](mailto:Walt@zionlexsc.com)

Julie Branham, Director of Music  
[Julie@zionlexsc.com](mailto:Julie@zionlexsc.com)

Starr Corley, Financial Administrator  
[Starr@zionlexsc.com](mailto:Starr@zionlexsc.com)

Steve Shumpert, Facilities Manager  
[Steve@zionlexsc.com](mailto:Steve@zionlexsc.com)