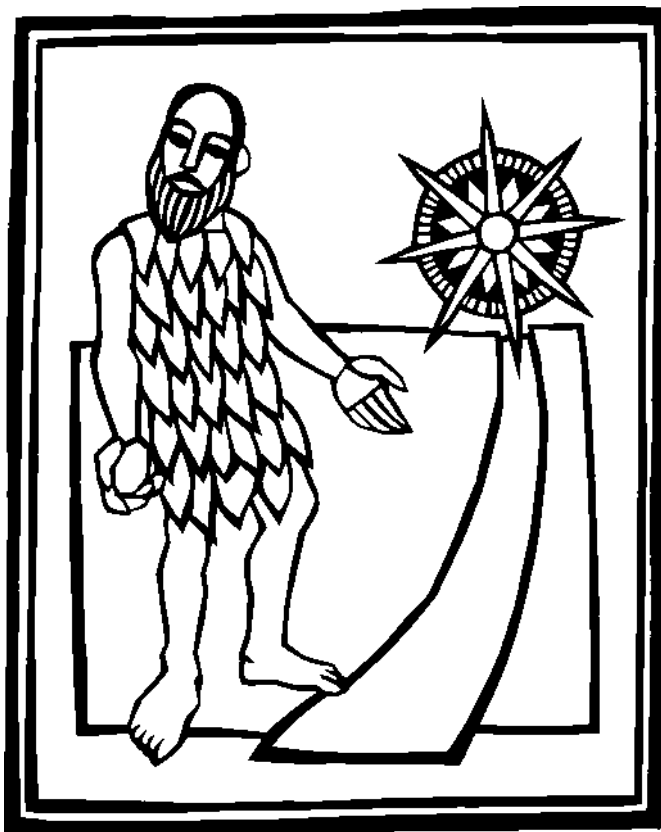


3rd Sunday of Advent



December 15, 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.

+ THIRD 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 # 248

People, Look East

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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

PSALM 146:5-10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

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 5-6

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

We sit.

SERMON

**Waiting for the Day when . . .
. . . Streams of Water break forth in the Desert**
Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 264

Prepare the Royal Highway

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

Hold On to Hope

We stand.

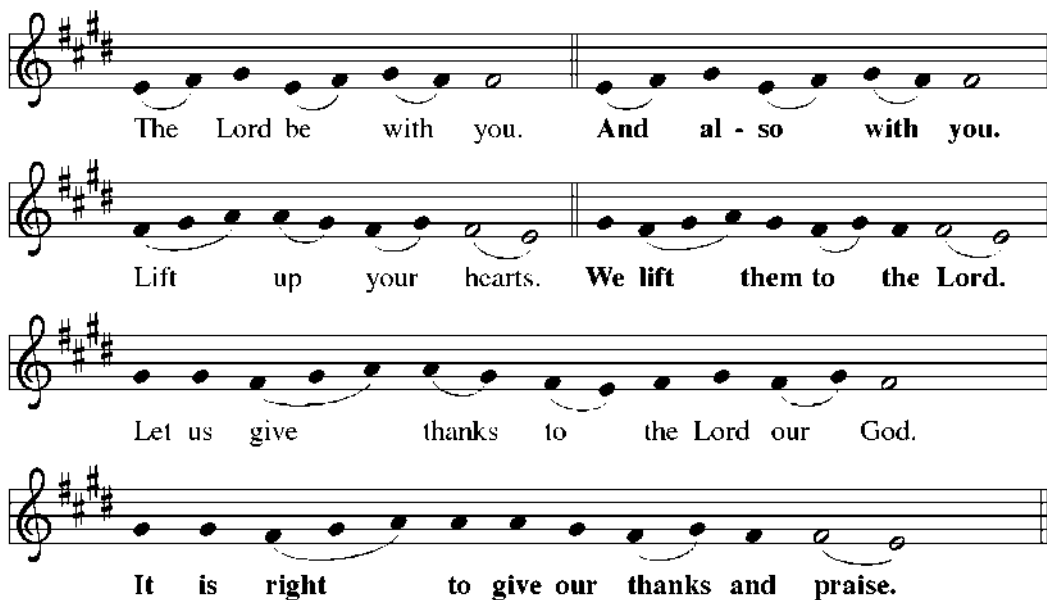
OFFERTORY HYMN # 715

Christ, Be Our Light
Verses 3, 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 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



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.**

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 # 239

Hark, the Glad Sound!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*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 TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pastor Nathan Gragg
Director of Music	Julie Branham
Assisting Minister	Bridgett Ridgell
Reader	Troy Fite
Communion Assistants	Mary Nell Panyard and Steve Shumpert
Crucifer	Kaylee Keisler
Acolyte	Bryleigh Tanner
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	Evelyn Varn
Offering Counters	Russell Grant, Karyn Stoneberg, Bob & Laura McCombs



SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

Assisting Minister	Bridgett Ridgell
Reader	Ann Mohrmann
Communion Assistants	Sue Anderson, Eileen Leaphart
Crucifer	Conner Rhoden
Acolyte	Shelton Rhoden
Ushers	Dave McKinley, Chris Harmon, Joel Kleckley, Suzanne Riley Whyte
Chancel and Sacraments	Darlene Weight, Althea Hendrix, Wanda Wingard
Children's Church	Jamie Hampton
Nursery	Jan Corley
Offering Counters	Russell Grant, Karyn Stoneberg, Bob & Laura McCombs



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

Rev. Nathan T. Gragg, Pastor
Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton, Director of Youth, Education, Communications
Walt@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham, Director of Music
Julie@zionlexsc.com

Starr Corley, Financial Administrator
Starr@zionlexsc.com

Steve Shumpert, Facilities Manager
Steve@zionlexsc.com