

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Being the Body of Christ

Pastor Kim Wills 422 Sherman St., Box 269, Sheffield, IA 50475

Phone: 892-4010 Cell: 641-425-9453

Email: pastor@zionstjohn.org

Leah Cruz: Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Cell: 641-373-7015 Email: youth@zionstjohn.org

December 15, 2024 9:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Prepare the Royal Highway* G Cassler & J Behnke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory; a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. **Amen**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ and freed to respond in joy. **Amen**

OPENING HYMN *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn* WOV #633

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*see insert
The Latham family*

Congregation response: **Prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight the way for our God. .**

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand
VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the third chapter.
Glorify to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. ⁹ Even 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.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Lord is a Shepherd

SS Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Prepare the Royal Highway*

LBW #26

Stand
APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

Sit

OFFERING

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Stand

OFFERTORY Go to www.zionstjohn.org to donate or download
VanCo Mobile app to your mobile device.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand, abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

LAMB OF GOD

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

Sit

COMMUNION

In Thee is Gladness

LBW #552

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING/ PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory, for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

SENDING *Hark the Glad Sound* LBW #35

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *In Thee is Gladness (In Dir ist Freude)* J S Bach

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Stewardship

...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us

Our Selves...

Ministers...The Members of Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Music...Charles S Lector...Alice G
Acolyte...Camden H Crucifer...Eli T
Greeters...Greimanns Fellowship ...Holiday Food Fair
Audio/Visual...Fred R and Scott C

Our Time...

Dec 4...26 LSV...16 Dec 8...72 LSV...23 SS...25

And Our Possessions...

Dec 8...\$5,337.00 SS...\$69.00

...signs of your gracious love