

Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Being the Body of Christ

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December 14, 2025 9:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

150 VIDEO

Stand

GATHERING SONG *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn* #242

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.**

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our 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
Wiseman family*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.
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.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say 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."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ then 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;
⁷ the 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.

⁸ A 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.
⁹ No 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.
¹⁰ And 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.

SECOND LESSON: James 5:7-10

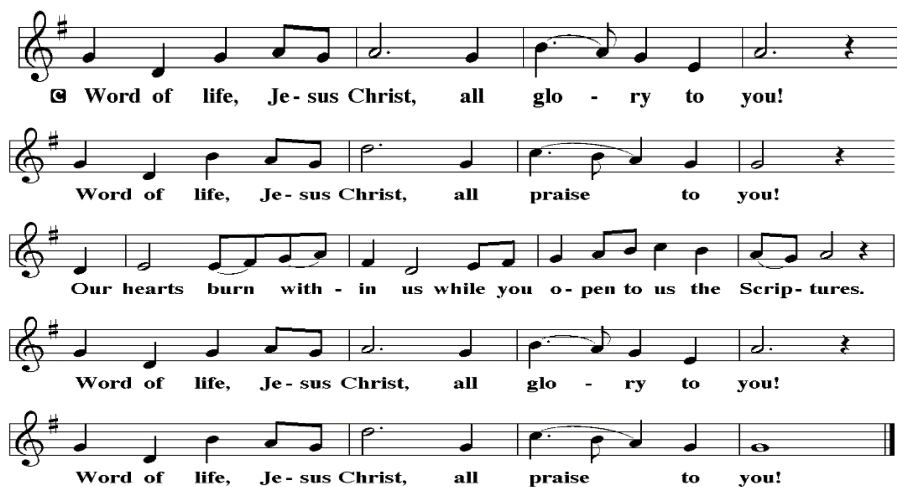
⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o- pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ 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: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly 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.

Sit

SPECIAL MUSIC

No Ordinary Night

SS Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

#246

Stand

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and**

awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior, in the name of the ✠ Father and the Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

PEACE

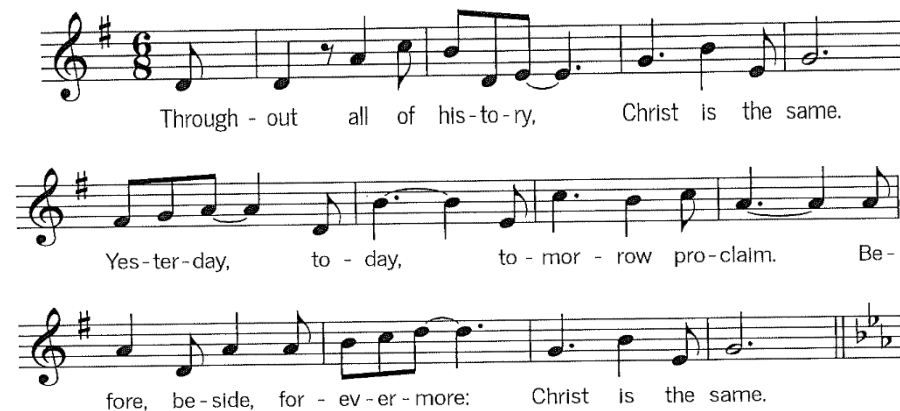
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Sit

OFFERING *All Earth is Hopeful* #266

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

OFFERTORY *Christ is the Same*



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

After each petition: God of grace, hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* #254

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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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...Cindy H Lector...Alice G
Greeters/ Fellowship...Women of Zion St John
Audio/Visual...Fred R

Our Time...

Dec 7...47 LSV...21 SS...17

And Our Possessions...

Dec 7...\$3,296.00 SS...\$28.00

...signs of your gracious love