



ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”*

Advent 2024 Worship Folder

Saturday @ 6:00 pm

Sunday @ 8:30 am and 11:00 am

WELCOME GUESTS!

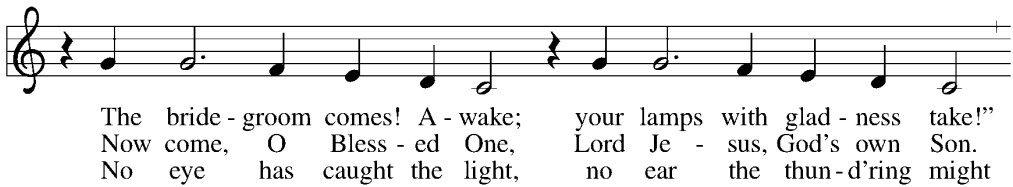
Welcome to Zoar Lutheran Church! We are delighted and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Zoar is a church called to proclaim the Risen Christ through Word and Sacrament. We pray that you have a meaningful worship experience, and we look forward to seeing you again. You are invited to become a part of the ministry that is Zoar. Please sign the welcome pad so we may acknowledge your visit.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Leader: Let us confess the ways in which we have reacted to the needs of the world with hopelessness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: God who cares for every sparrow and every child,

People: We confess the enormity of the world's hunger feels overwhelming.

Leader: We do not know what to do about famine and starvation, so we look away and distract ourselves from suffering people and all creatures, great and small.

People: We confess we neglect small acts of generosity because the problems seem so big. We confess we shrink back from true solutions because the sacrifices seem too great.

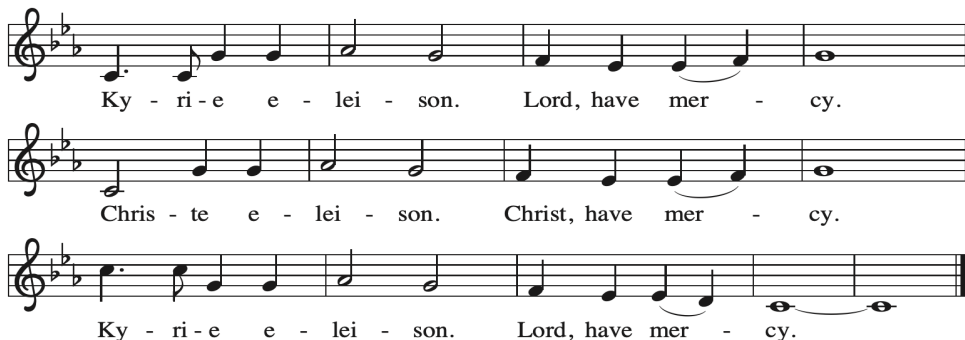
Leader: May your hope compel us to make choices reflecting our love for our neighbors and creation. You take our feeble efforts and magnify your glory. May the world be fed with hope.

People: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God is a loving parent with endless compassion who desires all people to flourish. Even when our hope falters, and we feel helpless to address the hunger in our world, God's steadfast love emboldens us to persevere so all creation can be fed. Receive God's pardon and be at peace.

Kyrie:



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Apostolic Greeting

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

Leader: Loving God, as we turn our hearts and minds to your message for us today, illuminate the scriptures before us. We begin the season of Advent and remember the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, laid in a manger in Bethlehem, the town called "House of Bread."

People: Open our eyes to the profound mystery of the Bread of Life born to dwell among us. As we recall the birth and life of Jesus, may we be transformed by the deep connection between the manger and the miracles, between the humble beginnings and abundant provision.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we pray.

People: Amen.

Congregation may be seated.

Children's Message (11:00 am) *Following the children's message, all 3 year old - 4th graders are welcome to go downstairs for JAM time with Miss Corryn.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

Sung responsively at 8:30 and 11 am, read responsively at 6 pm.

Refrain



To you, O Lord, I lift my soul, to you, I lift my soul.

Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander,
gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love,
God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Repeat alleluia

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

Gospel Readings: Luke 2:7; Matthew 14:13-21

Leader: The Gospel according to....

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the conclusion of the Gospel:

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW #251



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
- 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
- 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Affirmation of Hope

Leader: Let us affirm our commitment to and belief in the Christian discipline of hope. Like the pleasing aroma of a hot meal, as it is placed on a table of fellowship,

People: we believe hope entices the people of God to come together in unity.

Leader: Like the dreams of harvest that inspire the farmer to plant seeds in the spring,

People: we believe hope emboldens us to plan and plant for the future.

Leader: Like the insects who collect pollen and unknowingly fertilize the food for all of creation,

People: we believe hope empowers us to follow our calling, allowing God to multiply our efforts when we are obedient to our calling.

Leader: Like the instinct of animals who store and save for hard times ahead,

People: we believe hope persuades us to anticipate and endure challenges that will arise.

Leader: And when anxieties and circumstances overwhelm us, or we are tempted to fall into despair,

People: we believe things can get better with compassion and imagination. This is hope. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Receive our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Hope compels us to make peace with others because we know we will be serving alongside one another to meet everyone's needs. So that this moment to pass peace to your family, friends, and neighbors, for we cannot make his long Advent journey to the manger alone. May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another with words of peace.

Congregation may be seated.

Announcements

Offering

Tithes and offerings are collected at this time.

Please sign and pass the pew pads during the offering and indicate whether you are receiving communion today.

Please fill out the pew pads with your name along with all who are present with you today. For those who are visiting, please include your children's names and ages.

*Offering Prayer

Generous God,

These gifts and offerings are tangible expression of our hope in Christ. May they nourish those who hunger and spread your love and justice. Bless our giving, inspire us to share with compassion, and help us trust in your abundant provision. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, in Bethlehem – In the “House of Bread” – you gave us Jesus Christ. He was born and laid in a humble manger, and is the Bread of Life – the One who satisfies our deepest hunger. Your love, shown to us in Jesus, is sufficient to fill the hungry places in our hearts and minds. You are enough for everyone, and there will always be enough bread and wine for all who come to the table with sincere hearts. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, whom we remember today. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

In remembrance of Christ, we gather at this table, alongside disciples old and young, from every walk of life,
confident that through Jesus Christ, we are all nourished and made whole.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Let us pray:

God our Loving Parent,
may this timeless meal of bread and wine fill our hearts with hope,
that we might partner with you to restore all things to justice and glory.

Holy Spirit,
as you inspired Jesus to heal and feed the people around him, open our eyes to the hunger around us,
giving us wisdom that we might know how to respond.

Jesus, our Friend and Brother,
just as you blessed five loaves and two fish and fed thousands of people, we pray you would bless the bread and wine we bring today.

Amen.

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.

Congregation may be seated.

Sharing of Communion

Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. In addition to red wine there is also a non-alcohol white grape juice available; in addition to wafers there is a gluten-free option available. Zoar's current practice for communing children is to invite those in fourth grade to attend a Communion Education class prior to receiving at the table. People of any age who are not receiving Communion are always offered a blessing when coming forward during this part of the worship service. If you would like your children to receive Communion sooner, please let a pastor know. All are welcome, for Jesus invites us.

Music During Communion

Be Known to Us



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Post Communion Blessing**

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
 in this holy moment of communion,
 you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
 May the nourishment we have received sustain us as we
 journey forth in hope and faith. We thank you for the
 mystery of Christ's presence among us,
 born in Bethlehem, the "House of Bread."
 From the creation of the cosmos to the baby in the manger to this
 moment in worship, you have been faithful, filled with loving kindness.
 Guide us, Holy Spirit, as we go from here,
 empowered to embody the simplicity and compassion of Christ, sharing your abundant
 love with a hungry world. **Amen.**

Charge and Benediction

May Christ, the Bread of Life, ✚
 who brings hope to the hopeless, be with you. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to
 care for the hungry and the oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy
 Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kingdom where all hunger is satisfied, strengthen you
 now and always. **Amen.**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Leader: Go in hope to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude