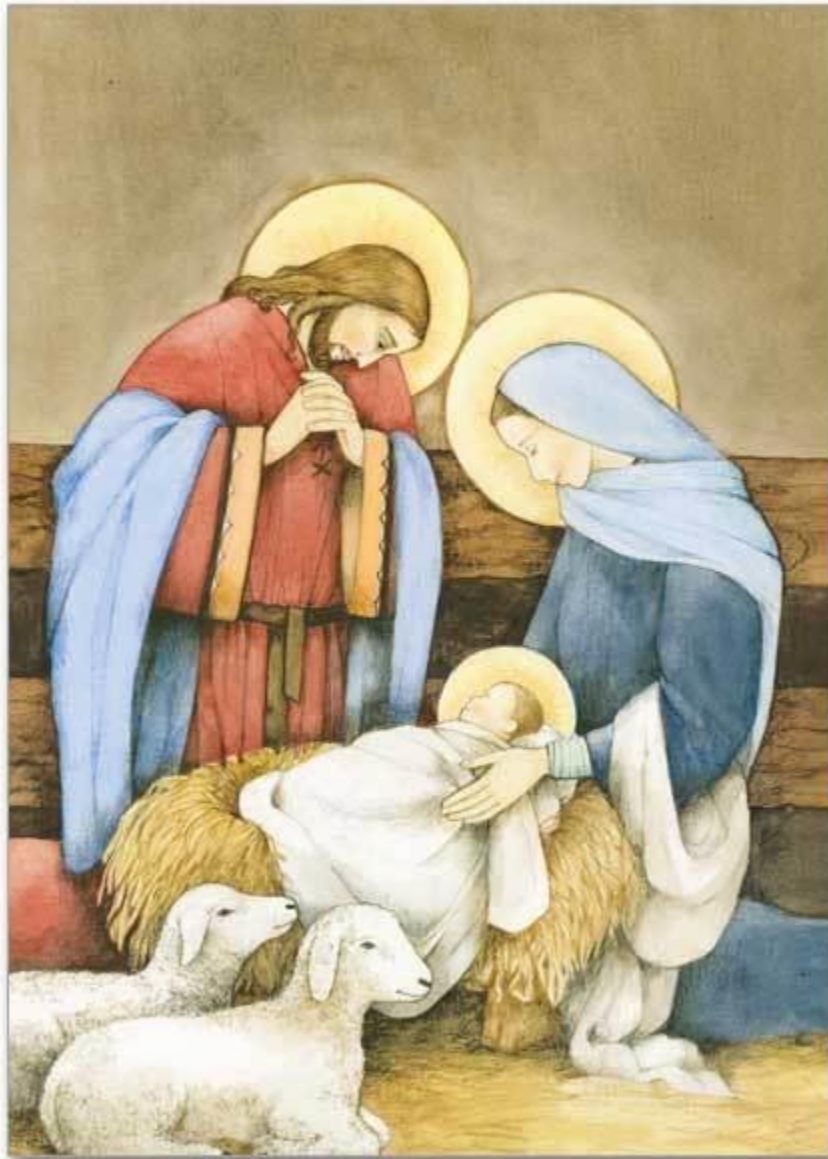


First Sunday of Christmas



Zion Lutheran Church
Rev. John W. Stevens, pastor
Karl Gustafson, Minister of Music
720 Jefferson St. Oregon City, OR 97045
<http://www.zionlutheranelca.org>
503-656-4437
December 31, 2023

GATHERING + word + meal + sending

PRELUDE

Welcome & Bell

The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

Gathering Carol

“Angels, from the realms of glory,”

ELW #275

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

“Angels we have heard on high,”

ELW #289

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 8

O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

**³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

**⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

**⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.**

**⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

**⁷all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,**

**⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

**⁹O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord”

Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

Response: “O come, all ye faithful” (refrain only)

ELW #283

Lesson: Matthew 1:18-21

HOMILY

Carol: “Lo, how a rose e’er blooming”

ELW #272

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is *Christ*, the Lord”

Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

Response: “O come, all ye faithful” (refrain only)

ELW #283

Lesson: John 1:19-23, 29-34

HOMILY

Carol: “In the bleak midwinter”

ELW #294

“For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the *Lord*”

Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

Response: O come, all ye faithful (refrain only)

ELW #283

Lesson: Luke 1:26-35

HOMILY

Carol: “O little town of Bethlehem,”

ELW #279

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. *A brief silence.*

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness; we pray *especially for . . .* We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

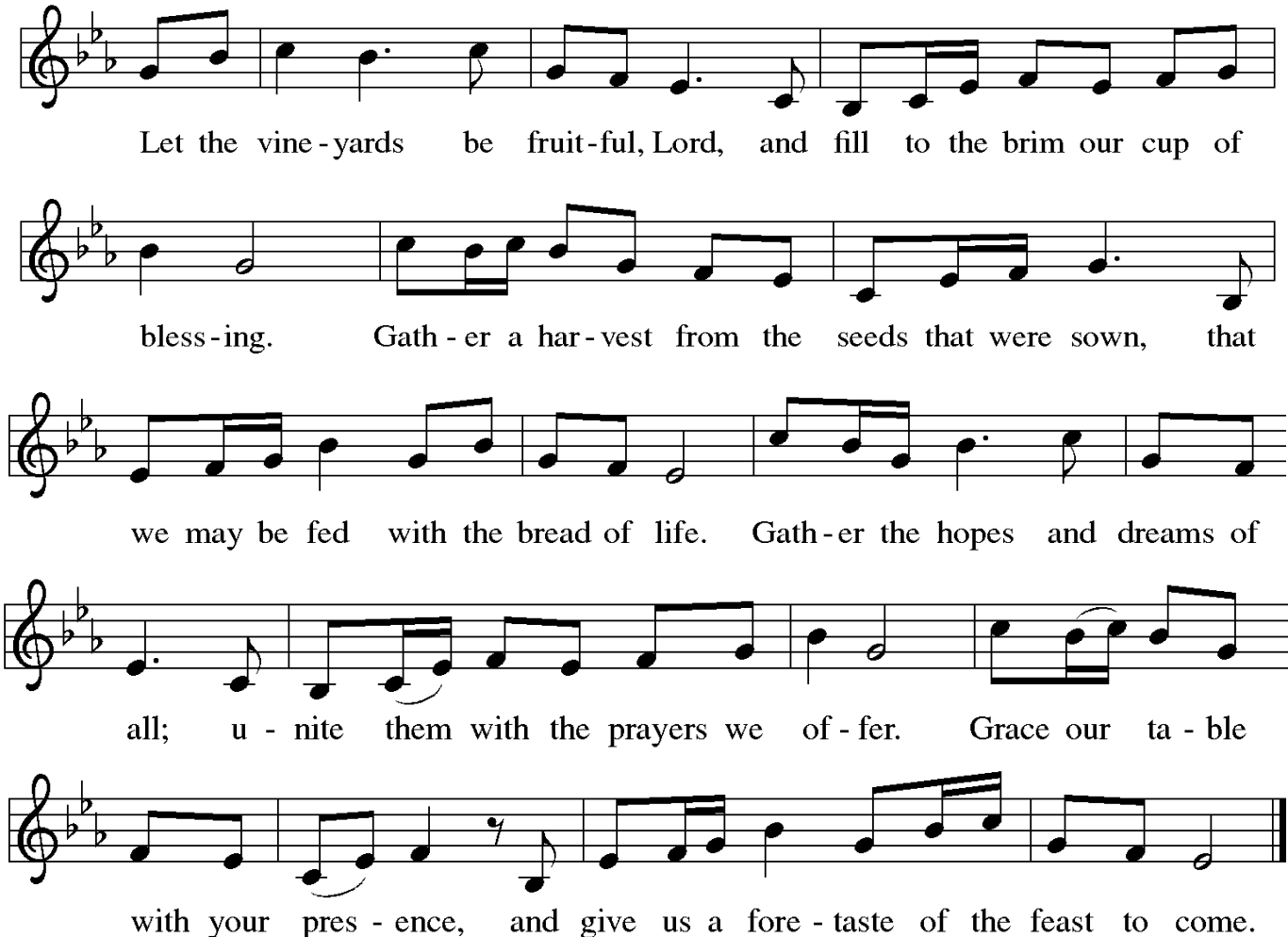
Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **Amen.**

gathering + word + MEAL + sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS ` Birthdays: Don Martenson, Audrey Keller, Lis Horton,
Chris Nolte, Piper Dowling, Nancy Hargitt

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and 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 with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne")

Our Father, Thou in heav'n above,
Hal-low-ed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
On earth, in heav'n - the same.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us all our sins.
And from all trials and evil, Lord,
Deliver us. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW #267

SILENT NIGHT

ELW #281

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

ELW #270

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

gathering + word + meal + **SENDING**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN “O Lord Our God, Whom All Through Life We Praise”

DISMISSAL

P: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WELCOME TO ALL, ESPECIALLY OUR VISITORS: We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us this morning. *Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.* Everyone is welcome to come to the Table of the Lord and receive communion!

“O Lord Our God, Whom All Through Life We Praise”

O Lord our God, whom all through life we praise,
As year by year days add to numbered days,
With each we prove the wonder of your ways,
While still adoring, each new song we raise.

With thankful hearts your goodness we confess,
Our Guide and Help in gladness and distress.
For life, light, love, your holy name we bless;
Accept the gratitude our hearts express.

O God, be near in loneliness and need;
From fear and doubting may our minds be freed.
When losses come, your consolation speed;
For strength and healing love, O Lord, we plead.

Our hope is founded in your saving grace.
Now hope abides to share love every place;
And hope to serve yet spurs our slowing pace,
Till, hope fulfilled, we see you face to face.

Frances A Winters

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Tune: Eventide (Abide With Me)

Weekly Prayer Requests: Dorothy Krueger, Susan Lamb, Murv Stone, Diane Green, Richard Jennings, Dee Hanson, Heidi Stevens, Katie O'Donnell, Sharin Little, Carol Gronbeck, Cheri Smith, Fern Haugh, Cathy Dawson, George Myers, Zander, Eme Bradley (3yrs old diagnosed with Leukemia), Leslie Ford, Daniel Morris, Daryl Cronen, Rhonda, Hazel Broderick, Kim & baby boy.

Prayers for Zion's Homebound Members: Esther Betts, Lavon Edwards, Donna Ronning, Verna Fuson, Dorothy Krueger, Ellie Woodford, Ron & Dorothy Cole, Jack Dace, Caroline Ritter-Swartz, Helen Dixon.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR THIS DAY ARE:

Ministers	People of Zion Lutheran Church
Worship Leader	Pastor Christopher Nolte
Minister of Music	Karl Gustafson
Acolyte	Margaret Rierson
Reader	Blenda Tyvoll
Communion Assistant	Mary Dowen
Ushers	Jeanette Kmetec, Ryan LaGrange, Jana LaGrange
PowerPoint Operator	Lorilee Cronn
Computer Streaming	Eileen Wiedrich
Care of the Altar	Bob & Margaret Rierson
Yard Care	Carston Berreth, John Wicklund

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE December 31, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Monday	News Years Day	Office closed
Tuesday	10AM 11:30AM	10@10 Bible Study
Wednesday	10AM 6:30PM	10@10 Choir Practice
Thursday	10AM 7:PM	10@10 Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday	9:30AM	People of Zion Meeting
Sunday	8:15AM 10:00AM	“Lutheranism 101” Worship & Sunday School

ANNUAL MEETING ~ Please plan to attend our annual congregation meeting immediately following the worship service on **January 28th**.

Your 2024 Offering Envelopes are available and can be picked up in the upper narthex.

Scholarships

Deadline for Winter 2020 term is TODAY, December 31, 2023!



Poinsettia Given by:

Jeanette Kmetic in memory of loved ones.

Janet Oleson in memory of Ray & Edna Pudwell.

Carmen Schmit in memory of Anna Wessel.

Phyllis Heagle in memory of loved ones.

Barbara Beaird in memory of loved ones.

LaVonne Priester & Eileen Wiedrich in memory of Ben & Irene Wiedrich.

Jeffery & Lorilee Cronn in memory of Melanie Cronn.

Teresa Yankey in memory of Lessie.

Vi Neilsen in memory of Tad Hyman & Arlen Zecha.

