

# **Zion Lutheran Church**

Oldwick, New Jersey



## **The Nativity of Our Lord**

Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion

December 24, 2022  
5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.



# **Joy to the World!**

From near or far, we are glad to have you join our celebration of Jesus' birth. May God's grace bless you now and throughout the coming year.

Visitors, please sign the guest register in the narthex.

Please remember to turn off your cell phones.

We invite you to continue celebrating Christ with us throughout the coming year.

## **AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP TOGETHER**

### **Christmas Day**

*December 25*

11:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

### **New Year's Day**

*January 1*

11:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

### **Baptism of Our Lord**

*January 8*

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services of Holy Communion

### **Sunday School**

9:45 am at the Christian Education Building (CEB)

*(Resumes on January 8)*



*Refrain*

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

2. The highest most holy light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

## **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.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” ELW 289

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Refrain*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

- <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

## SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"* ELW 270

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Refrain*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of  
righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.

*Refrain*



Welcome the Child of Light, the bright morning star that  
illuminates the night,  
The hope of the ages, the Savior of all; welcome the Child of  
Light. Welcome the Child of Light.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE**      *“Love Has Come”*      ELW 292

Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

### **OFFERTORY 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.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

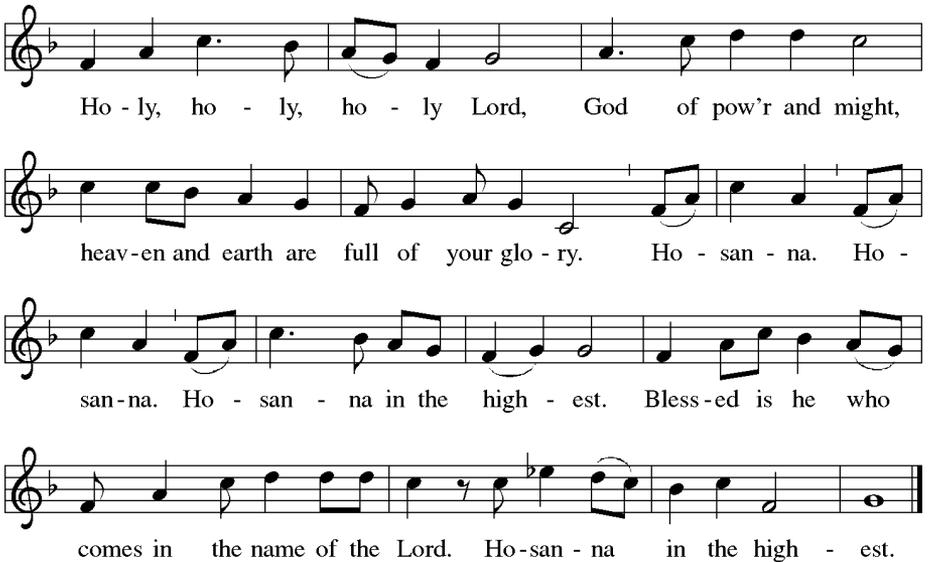
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,  
that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.  
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:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand. Please dip the bread into the cup of wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (gold chalice). Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew.*

## COMMUNION ANTHEM

5 p.m.            *"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"*            Ron Mallory  
8 p.m.            *"My Heart, Your Bethlehem"*            Ruth Elaine Schram

Will you have a place to lay Your head on the night of Your holy birth;

A crown, or a robe of royal thread, as Your life begins on earth?  
Though some will not receive You, or know just who You are,  
I will prepare a place for You, a home within my heart.

I'll make my heart Your Bethlehem, where You, O Lord, can enter in.

Shine Your light, let Your life in me begin, and make my heart Your Bethlehem.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today!

Though some will not believe You are the Savior born for them,  
I will prepare a place for You; my heart, Your Bethlehem.

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n.

So God imparts in human hearts the blessings of His heav'n."

Though some will not receive You, or know just who You are,  
I will prepare a place for You, a home within my heart.

I'll make my heart Your Bethlehem, where You, O Lord, can enter in.

Shine Your light, let Your life in me begin, and make my heart Your Bethlehem.

Make my heart Your Bethlehem.

**CAROL**                    *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*                    ELW 282

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

## **COMING OF THE LIGHT**

John 1:1-14

*As the acolytes pass the light to members of the congregation, please pass it on to the candle of the person next to you. PLEASE DO NOT TIP a lighted candle.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**CAROL**

*"Silent Night"*

ELW 281

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth. Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Please extinguish your candles.*

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**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.**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing. And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found. Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love. And wonders, wonders of his love.

**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## **Assisting Ministers**

5 p.m. Gerry and Kirsten Dehkes

8 p.m. Jeff Livingston

## **Acolytes**

5 p.m. Olivia Bryson & Caleb Schumann

8 p.m. Brooke Bredeson & Nate Brokaw

## **Greeters**

5 p.m. Richard & Brooke Schumann

8 p.m. Rebecca Melick & Josh Bryan

## **Ushers**

5 p.m. John Minerowicz, Reina Schumann,  
Kayden O'Connor-Shin, Oskar Shin

8 p.m. Einar Bredeson and David Wintemute



## Christmas Poinsettias Given By

David & Elizabeth Blackwood

*In memory of Vera Vorwick and Ruth & Hugh Blackwood*

Lou DiCriscio & Nova Ahrens

*In memory of Filomena DiCriscio and Angela Bellarmino*

Bill & Eleanor Kover

*In thanksgiving for Marianna & Frank Evanouskas, June & Phil Calavetta, and Marlene & Bob Kover. In memory of Helen & Steve Kover, Mary & Charley Evanouskas, and Anne & Sam Faust*

Tom Kriegsmann

*In memory of Sis & Genie Conran*

The Lanka Family

*In memory of loved ones*

John & Sandy Matsen

*In memory of loved ones*

Rebecca Melick & Josh Bryan

*In memory of loved ones*



John & Wendy Minerowicz

*In thanksgiving for our children & grandchildren*

Marjorie Mitchell

Ron & Joanne Rupp

*In memory of dear friends and loved ones*

John & Sue Swanson

*In memory of Rollin & Elvira Swanson, and Jean & Paul Herrmann*

Leah & David Wintemute

*In thanksgiving for grandchildren, nieces, and nephews Harper, Carson, Chloe, Nate, Libby & Connor*

*In loving memory of parents and grandparents Ray H. & Lysod J. Kunkel*

*In loving memory of brother-in-law and sister J. Staats & Louise K. Brokaw*



*Connecting People with God's Grace*

**Pastor**

Pastor Kat Steinly

**Director of Music**

Rodney A. Briscoe