

# **Zion Lutheran Church**

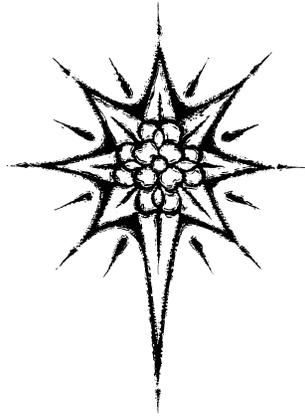
Oldwick, New Jersey



## **The Nativity of Our Lord**

Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion

December 24, 2025  
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 silence your cell phone.

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

### **Sunday Morning Communion Worship**

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

### **Sunday School**

9:45 a.m. at the Christian Education Building

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

8 p.m.

*"The Yearning"*

Courtney/Bentall Boersma

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

## WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## CAROL

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

ELW 283

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

### ***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*

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

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.**

## **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 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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.

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

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.*

## **CAROL**

*“Love Has Come”*

ELW 292

- 1 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.
  
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:*

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

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you."*

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

5 p.m.	<i>"Angel Medley"</i>	arr. Terry Osman
8 p.m.	<i>"My Heart, Your Bethlehem"</i>	Gains/Schram

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

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

*"The First Noel"*

ELW 300 v. 1

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**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 ...

... 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

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!



Angels announced the glorious birth, goodwill to all and peace on earth!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Welcome the Child of Light, the bright morning star that illumines the night,  
the hope of the ages, the Savior of all; welcome the Child of Light!

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

### **COMING OF THE LIGHT**

John 1:1-14

*As the acolytes pass the light to each pew, 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.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **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

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter: Father, †  
Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

## CAROL

*"Joy to the World"*

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry 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**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**