Welcome to Worship at Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:00 am

Photo by Traci Pederson

Welcome and Announcements

Beautify Zion's sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas

Order forms are available in the Gathering Space.

Orders are due TODAY!

There is still time!

You can submit a photo to put in Zion's online directory. Email it to zlcw@mncable.net (or drop it off at the office).





WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 5:30 pm During worship

If any of the students wish to perform their Christmas recital pieces as Prelude that night, please notify Shelley Galle.

Sharing of the Peace

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

#436

Text and Music: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Public Domain.

Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying; awake, Jerusalem, at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens! Night is past. The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia! **Rise and prepare the feast to share;** go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom, Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious: her star is ris'n; her light is come. Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.

Gloria! Let heav'n adore you! Let saints and angels sing before you, with harp and cymbal's clearest tone. Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming, lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming, with angel choirs around your throne. No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might of such glory. There we will go: what joy we'll know! There sweet delight will ever flow.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. C: We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a fellow member of the priesthood of all saints, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

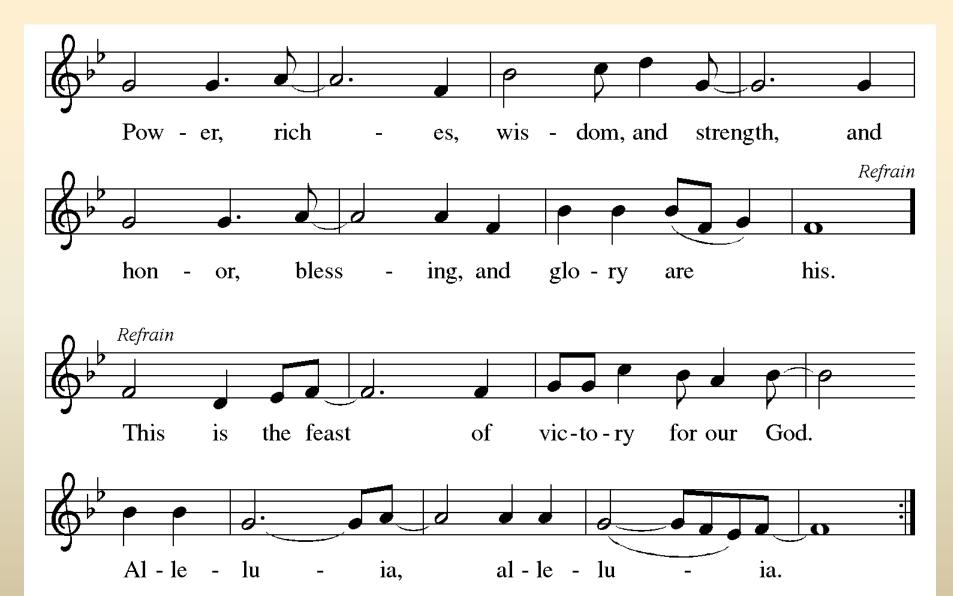
- L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord have mercy.
- L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.

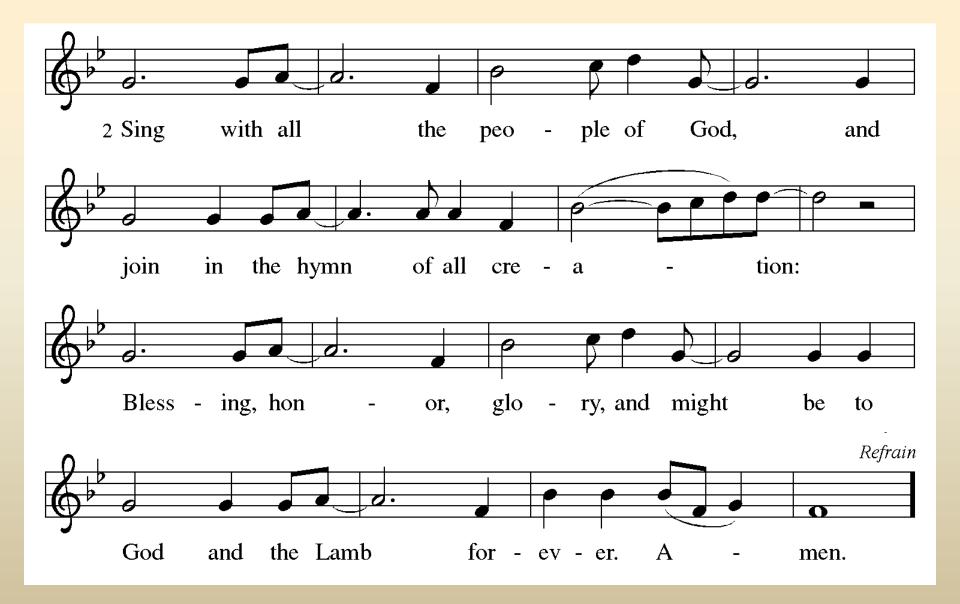
- L: For this holy house,and for all who offer here their worship and praise,let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: Amen.

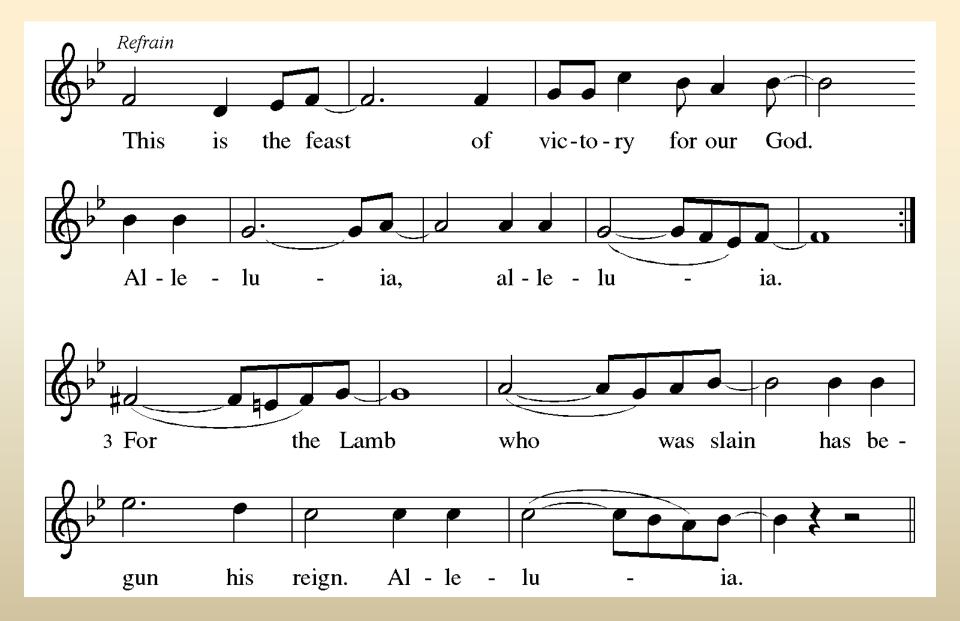
Hymn of Praise

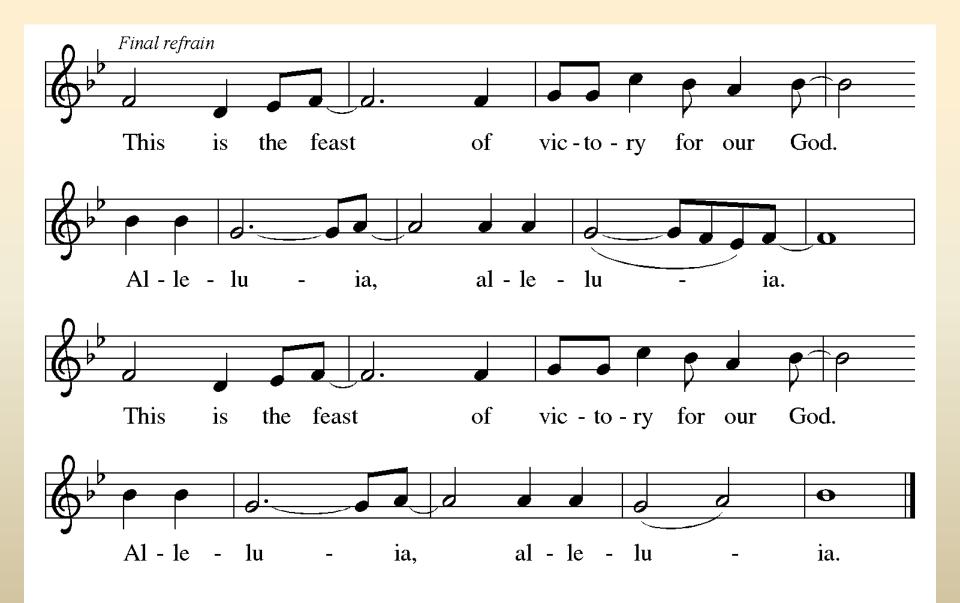
Refrain 0. This the feast of is for our vic-to-ry God. 0 . Al - le - lu ia, al - le - lu ia. _ 7. Lamb 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the who was slain, whose ple of God. blood free be set us to peo -

p. 169









L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn. ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with
them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm, Luke 1:46b-55

L: ^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

- C: ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
- L: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.
- C: ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

- L: ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,
 C: ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.
- L: ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
- C: ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
- L: ⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

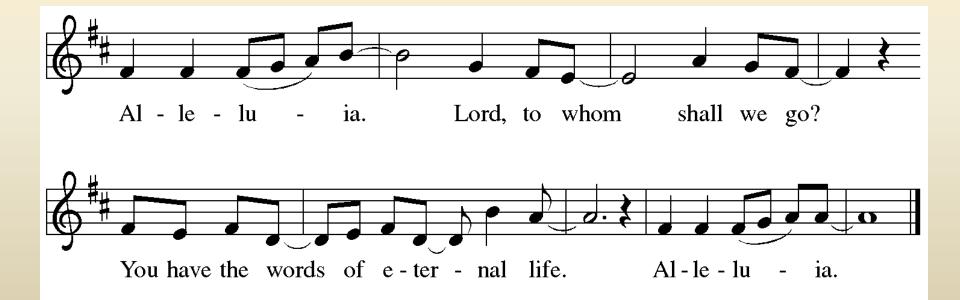
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 171



L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

"Mary's Song"

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Text: Cameroon traditional. Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949. Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIZ Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Apostles' 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.

Offering with *Choir Anthem* "What Shall I Give"

Praise and Thanksgiving ELW #689 vv. 1, 2

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Music: Gaelic tune; are. Hymnal version. Text © Oxford University Press. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A and CCLI #1943036. All rights reserved. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Offering Prayer

L: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition:

- L: Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.
- L: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.
- C: Amen.

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. 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.

Holy Communion

An usher will guide you forward. Wafers or gluten free bread and wine or juice will be offered. You will be served a wafer unless you indicate otherwise. Please take the wine or juice from the tray yourself.

What Feast of Love

#487

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939. Music: English ballad, 16th cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. ODP Publications. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

1.

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given! What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the King, the sun come down from heaven. Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given! What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

3.

Thy Holy Wings ELW #613

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3, Gradia Grindal, b. 1943. st. 2; tr. Composite. Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. Hymnal version. Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co. Inc. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A and CCLI #1943036. All rights reserved.

> Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.

Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest. Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there, for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care. Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood. Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good. Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

- L: Generous God,
 - in bread and cup you have revealed your
 glory for all people to see together.
 Nourished by this meal, send us out to
 proclaim your good news of liberation and
 release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ
 our Savior.
- C: Amen.

Blessing

L: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Joy to the World

ELW #267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain

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. 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. 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. 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 of his love,

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.C: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

God bless you!

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