

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Glen Rock, PA  
Second Sunday of Advent  
ELW Holy Communion  
Sunday, December 6, 2020**

\*We stand as we are able.

**Introduction to the day**

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

**\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their  
hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME AND SERMON**

**\*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.**

## \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY INTERLUDE**

*Remember these words and meditate as you hear “This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!”*

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## **\*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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **\*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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**\*COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING**

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



## **\*SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this or a similar prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **\*BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Today's communion elements are presented to the Glory of God, by Dave & Shirley Seitz.

Today's altar flower arrangement is presented in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dise and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ream, by Mr. & Mrs. James Ream and family.

### **SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/13/20**

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps 126, 1 Thess 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Roman Davis, Brian Dell, Kathy Gardner, Van Gardner, Irene Grogan, Nancy Heltzel, Andy Hill, Linda Kowalewski, Don Miller, Jim Ream, Susan Scheungrab, Steve Scott, Dave & Shirley Seitz, Susette Stallard, Earl Williams

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Zion's council met virtually on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020.** During this meeting, the council approved a provisional budget for 2021. The approved provisional budget is very similar to the 2020 congregation approved budget. At this time, the council has decided to postpone having a congregational meeting until such time when the congregation, as a whole, feels safe to come together for the meeting. Therefore, **there will be no congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13th after worship.** Copies of the approved provisional budget for 2021 are available, near the table with bulletins. An email was also sent out including the council approved provisional budget for 2021. The vote to purchase a monitored central station fire detection system has also been postponed.

**We want to thank all of you for your cards, phone calls, and especially your prayers during this difficult time for us.** They have been greatly appreciated. We continue to improve every day. Please be safe. God Bless all of you. – Dave & Shirley Seitz

**The family of Rose (Chandler) Bell invites you to send Christmas greetings to Rose this holiday season.** Rose has been in & out of the hospital and nursing home/rehab for most of 2020. Cards and letters can be sent to: Rose Bell #103-A, Fox Subacute, 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

**CHRISTMAS...a time for giving and sharing!** The Christian Education Committee, with Council's blessing, WILL be collecting Gifts of Warmth again this year (hats, scarves, mittens, etc) to adorn our Christmas tree, which, due to the pandemic, will be set up in the sanctuary in the vicinity of the choir loft. **The tree will be set up through January 3, 2021.** Although all donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated, there is a great need for hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for men, particularly large sizes. All donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army in York at the end of the collection period. As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God's bountiful blessings. We ask that there be social distancing when placing the articles on the tree, and to leave the sanctuary afterwards. We understand that these are difficult times and that donations may not be as fruitful this year. In speaking with a representative of the Salvation Army, they were thrilled to learn that we will be continuing this tradition and remember Zion with grateful hearts. Questions may be directed to any member of the committee: Lois Goodling, Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Bill Ream, Gloria Ream, Jim Ream, Pam Spangler, Bev Reindollar, chair, Evelyn Roser.

**The church office hours will be modified throughout the rest of November and in December.** The office will be closed on Wednesday, 12/2; Wednesday 12/9; Wednesday, 12/16; Wednesday, 12/23; Thursday, 12/24; Friday, 12/25; Wednesday, 12/30; Thursday, 12/31 and Friday, 1/1.

**Upcoming Lectors:**

Dec. 6 – Diane Bortner

**Council Offering Duty:**

December – Tom Bailey and Edgar Davis

**Upcoming Communion Sponsors:**

Dec. 20 – Sandy Fair

Dec. 24 – Carrie Miller/Donna Price

Jan. 3 – Clay & Linda Beegle

Jan. 17 – Clay & Linda Beegle

Feb. 7 – Sandy Fair

Feb. 21 – Evie Roser

**Remote worship options are available.** Recorded services and other virtual fellowship opportunities are available on Zion’s Remote Worship web page at <https://zionglenrock.org/worship/remote-worship>.

**If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.**

**PERSONNEL here at ZION**

Pastor Paul Haack, Stated Sunday Supply Pastor

Pastor Katie Brantner, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator.....717-420-0779

Darryl Engler, Organist

Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant

Natalie Walker, Custodian

Chad Fisher, Sexton.....717-235-3641

Joy Keller-Brown, Council President.....717-235-7044

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Joy Keller-Brown, Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst, George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday – Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm**

**(see announcement for modified hours during November and December)**

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