

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Glen Rock, PA  
Third Sunday of Advent  
ELW Service of the Word  
Sunday, December 13, 2020**

\*We stand as we are able.

**Introduction to the day**

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**\*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 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.

**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The 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;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to 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.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For 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.

<sup>9</sup>Their 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.

<sup>10</sup>I 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.

<sup>11</sup>For 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.

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

## **Psalm: Psalm 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May 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. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” <sup>23</sup>He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” <sup>26</sup>John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not

worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”<sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON AND CHILDREN’S TIME**

### **OFFERTORY INTERLUDE**

#### **\*OFFERTORY 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**

#### **\*APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

**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, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. 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.**

## **\*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.**

## **\*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 altar flower arrangement is presented in loving memory of my father, Kenneth Day, on his birthday. Always in my heart, Barb (Day) Muggio.

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

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

## **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

**Due to the most recent state restrictions, the council has made the following plan for worship in the upcoming weeks.** If you have any questions, please contact a council member. As more information is made available, the council will give updates to the congregation regarding worship options in the new year.

**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>** - The worship service will be recorded. You can access the recorded service via Zion's website at [www.zionglenrock.org](http://www.zionglenrock.org). **In person worship will be limited to 10 people who do not have access to the online recording of the service.** There will be no communion. Following the 9am worship service on 12/20, Pastor Haack will be pre-recording the Christmas Eve service. (The people who attended in person worship on 12/20 are welcome to stay for the recording of the Christmas Eve service.) Communion will be included in the Christmas Eve recording, and therefore those in attendance will be able to commune on 12/20 during the recording of the Christmas Eve service.

**Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – The pre-recorded Christmas Eve service will be available at Zion's website the morning of Christmas Eve. We encourage you to plan a time with your family and friends to watch the Christmas Eve service, in an effort to know that while physically separated you are taking part in the service together.

**Sunday, Dec. 27** – The worship service will be recorded. You can access the recorded service via Zion's website at [www.zionglenrock.org](http://www.zionglenrock.org). In person worship will be limited to 10 people who do not have access to the online recording of the service. There will be no communion.

**Sunday, Jan. 3** - The worship service will be recorded. You can access the recorded service via Zion's website at [www.zionglenrock.org](http://www.zionglenrock.org). In person worship will be limited to 10 people who do not have access to the online recording of the service. There will be no communion.

**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 December.** The office will be closed on 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. 13 – Diane Bortner  
Dec. 20 – Carrie Miller  
Dec. 24 – George Brown  
Dec. 27 – Susie Hengst  
Jan. 3 – Linda Beegle

**Council Offering Duty:**

December – Tom Bailey and Edgar Davis  
January – Susie Hengst and Donna Price

**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 December)**

## FINANCIAL Information for YOU

### Weekly Contributions and Expenses

**2020 Weekly contribution goal to cover budget expenses: \$2,464.00**

12/6/2020 Regular Contributions \$ 4,910.00

Other Contributions/Gifts +\$ 175.00

-\$ 135.00 *Dedicated Dollars*

\$ 4,950.00 Contributions to cover Expenses

Weekly Expenses: \$ 0.00

### Cumulative Contributions and Expenses for 2020

Regular Contributions \$ 96,556.00

Other Contributions/Gifts + \$ 17,531.65

*Dedicated Dollars* - \$ 15,798.43

Contributions to cover Expenses \$ 98,289.22

Expenses to date: \$ 104,346.20

**Zion Lutheran Church**

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