

**Zion Lutheran Church
Glen Rock, PA
Third Sunday of Advent
LBW Holy Communion Setting One
Sunday, December 14, 2025**

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (LBW 34, verse 3)

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 56)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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. 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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen

***ENTRANCE HYMN: “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”**

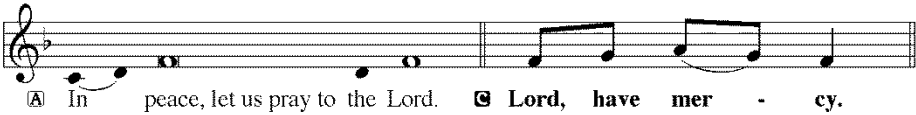
LBW (green) 27

***APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 57)**

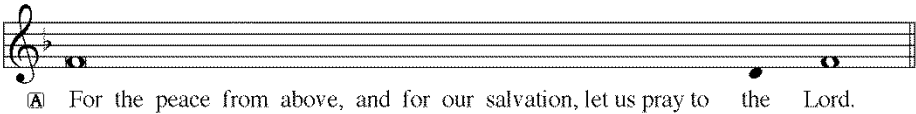
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE (LBW p. 57)



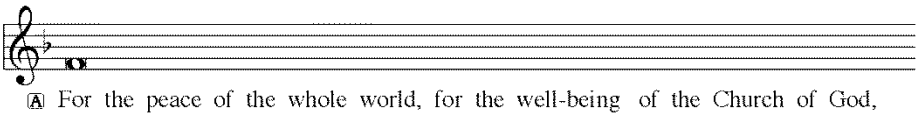
(A) In peace, let us pray to the Lord. (C) Lord, have mer - cy.



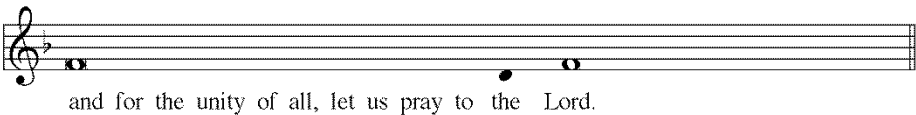
(A) For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



(C) Lord, have mer - cy.



(A) 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.



(C) Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.
 [A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [C] A - men

***HYMN OF PRAISE: “People Look East”**

WOV (blue) 626, verse 3

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

ANTHEM: “Love Was When”

Children’s church dismissal: All children are invited to the Nursery, at this time.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
 They shall see the glory of the LORD,
 the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
 and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:4-9

- ⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob [|] for their help,
whose hope is in the [|] LORD their God;
- ⁵ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that [|] is in them;
who keeps his prom- [|] ise forever;**
- ⁶ who gives justice to those who [|] are oppressed,
and food to [|] those who hunger.
- ⁷ **The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes [|] of the
blind;
the LORD lifts up those who [|] are bowed down;**
- ⁸ the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares [|] for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way [|] of the wicked.
- ⁹ **The LORD shall [|] reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. [|] Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (LBW p. 62)

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: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.



² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

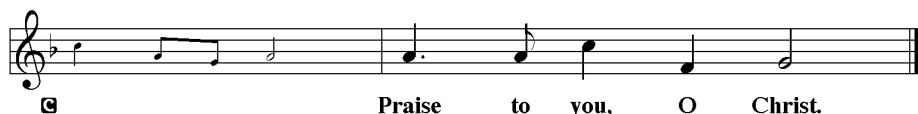
⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON (LBW p. 83)

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LBW (green) 26

***APOSTLES CREED (LBW p. 64)**

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, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (LBW p. 65)**

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

***PEACE (LBW p. 66)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE: (LBW p. 66)**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)

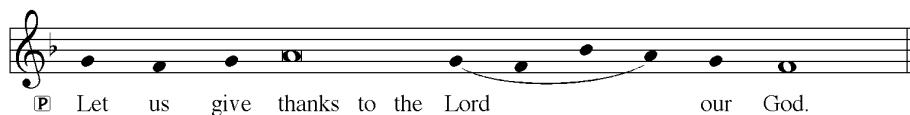
Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

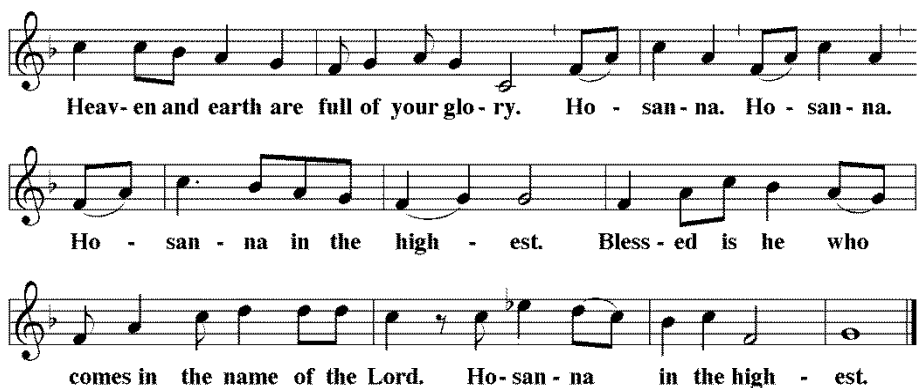
*DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)



*PREFACE (LBW p. 68)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





***THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 70)**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

***LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

***COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)**

□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION (LBW p. 72)

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

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

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)**

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



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p.74)

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***BLESSING (LBW p. 74)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen

***SENDING HYMN: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"**

LBW (green) 328 vs. 1-4

***DISMISSAL (LBW p. 74)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's communion elements are presented to the Glory of God by Brenda Gladfelter.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/21/2025

Isa 7:10-16, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19, Rom 1:1-7, Matt 1:18-25

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nellie Hoffman, Keith Copenhaver, James Thompson, Ron Goodling,
Randy Ruth, Joann King, Trey Tomaschko, Lou Tomaschko, Beth Hennessey,
Suzanne Becker, Chad Smith, Brian Phelps, Glenn and Linda Engler,
Tim Myers, Bonni Whitman, Jon Stiffler, Shirley Seitz, Sandy Fair,
Diane Moul

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Zion! We are glad you are here today. After worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship with coffee and snacks in the social hall directly beside the sanctuary.

Communion is offered every Sunday. Wine and apple juice are both available. All are welcome.

Today we welcome Rev. Martin Zimmann to lead us in worship.

A congregational meeting will be held today, immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on the proposed 2026 budget. There will also be a vote on a chimney repair and new roof project for the education wing of the building and a new flat roof over the Hanover St. Narthex. The cost of the project is approximately \$60,000. There is money in a dedicated account for this project. If anyone has questions about the project, please ask a member of the Property Committee. Copies of the proposed 2026 budget are available near the table with the bulletins, at the back of the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Service at Zion: The prelude music will begin at 7pm on Wednesday, 12/24.

The Glen Rock Carolers will be performing a free indoor concert at Zion Lutheran Church on Wednesday, December 24th at 10:45pm.

The prices of flower arrangements from Glen Rock Floral Co. (formally known as "Flowers by Cindy") will increase in 2026. Regular altar flowers

and second arrangements will cost \$41 per arrangement. High altar flowers will cost \$29 per 2 bud vases. The new prices include a delivery fee.

CHRISTMAS... a time for giving and sharing! The Christian Education Committee will, once again, be collecting Gifts of Warmth this year (hats, scarves, mittens, etc) to adorn the Christmas tree which is set up in the Upstairs Fellowship Hall. The tree will be available for your donations through December 28, 2025. Donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated! All donations will be delivered to Coats of Friendship at the end of the collection period. Questions may be directed to any member of the committee: Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Evelyn Roser, and Pam Spangler. **As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God's bountiful blessings.**

Have you been pulling out your cold weather clothes and outerwear since the temperatures started dropping? Please consider donating your unwanted coats, sweatshirts, and sweaters to Coats of Friendship. A box is available in the church social hall for your donations.

The Loose Change offering plate is available every Sunday. At the end of the month, the total collected for that month will be sent to the chosen organization. **Our loose change collection for December will benefit House of Hope.** House of Hope is a biblically based program that offers a residential home for teen girls ages 14-17, as well as counseling services for families, individuals, and couples. The goal is to provide healing and restoration through individual and family counseling combined with education, recreation, life skills, and spiritual growth.

Services are recorded and streamed live each week on Zion Lutheran Church's Facebook page. It is possible during the recording that people attending the service will be filmed. If you have any concerns about being filmed, please contact the office at 717-235-3276.

Announcements for the weekly bulletin are due to the office by early Tuesday morning so bulletin work can be completed by the end of the day on Tuesday. This schedule allows time for the bulletin to be sent to the presiding pastor for the upcoming week and allows the website committee time to post the bulletin on Zion's website. Announcements can be emailed to Brenda at office@zionglenrock.org.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

Darryl Engler, Organist

Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant

Kelley Fisher, Treasurer

Chad Fisher, Sexton

Chad Fisher, Council President.....ckoash6@gmail.com or 717-891-5327

Rick Freda, Council Vice President.....rickfreda@yahoo.com or 302-864-5700

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Tom Bailey, Jeff Brown, Chad Fisher, Rick Freda, Pam Hoffman, Gail Prego,
Donna Price, and Jen Webb

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Assisting Ministers:

December 14: George Brown

December 21: Butch Hengst

December 24: Jeff Hoffman

December 28: Lessons and Carols

Lectors:

December 14: Nate Rogers

December 21: Jen Webb

December 24: Kelley Fisher

December 28: Lessons and Carols

Council Offering Duty:

December – Donna Price and Gail Prego

Altar Care:

December – Linda Beegle



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