

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**  
Thief River Falls, MN  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
December 5, 2021



**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** “Christmas is a Time to Love” God’s Joy

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Brad & Barb, Elizabeth, Edward Arett

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

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

Most merciful God,

**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. 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.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** “Hark, The Glad Sound” ELW #239

**\*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** (p. 203) *Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer...*

(\*Please stand as you are able.)

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 204)

*Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth...*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**<sup>1</sup>FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

**PSALM: Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and | set them free.

<sup>69</sup>**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your | servant David.**

<sup>70</sup>Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup>from the hands of | all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup>**to show mercy | to our forebears,  
and to remember your | holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup>to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,

**free to worship you | without fear,  
<sup>75</sup>holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.**

<sup>76</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,

<sup>77</sup>**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation  
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion | of our God  
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 205)**

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word...*

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**

*John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.*

**P:** The holy Gospel...

**C:** **Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON PASTOR MARK HELGELAND**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry" ELW 249

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **Your mercy is great.**

**OFFERING** *Offering plates are available in the narthex*

**OFFERTORY** *“Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord...”* ELW #184

## **PRAYER**

### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **\*THE SONG**

We share this food together, rememb'ring Christ;  
we share a common treasure and know the price;  
we share it without measure, a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above.

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### **\*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.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *(Ushers will guide you forward at this time)*

**\*SONG AFTER COMMUNION** “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” # 204

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Response: **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW # 264

**\*BLESSING** Response: **Amen.**

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**WELCOME!** ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

**OUR THANKS** TO TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Advent Readers:* Brad & Barb, Edward, Elizabeth Arett

*Pianist:* Laura Rude

*Reader:* Kaylynn Wold

*Ushers:* Sheryl Melin, Glenice Johnson

*Greeters:* Lucas Rantanen, Maverick Iverson

*Acolytes:* Keaton Hoverson, Alex Hanson

*communion assistants:* Tom & Kaylynn Wold

**OUR PRAYERS** to Diane Lee hospitalized in Fargo.

**BROADCASTS** today are sponsored by Ron Lindberg in memory of Kenneth & Vi Lindberg

**ZION'S WEBSITE** for December is sponsored by Chris & Nicky Ellison & family in memory of Suzy Ellison

**REMINDER to those hospitalized** If you wish Pastor Mark to call, please let the office know.

**ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE** Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM service online. Go to: [www.ziontrf.org](http://www.ziontrf.org). in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

**LWR QUILTING** the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of the month 1- 4pm. Questions? call Sharon Berger-son 681-5445, or Renee Henney 964-5816

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – If you would like to share a poinsettia for our Christmas worship, please call or email the church office by December 18<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to designate in honor or in memory of a loved one it will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may take your poinsettia home following the 10PM Christmas worship.

**WELCA:** All women of Zion are invited to the annual "Christmas Tea" on Tues., Dec. 14, 2:00 p.m. Bring 6 cookies to share as we gather for fellowship, Bible study and refreshments.

**BEREAVED PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS SUPPORT GROUP:** Are you a parent or grandparent of a child or grandchild of any age who has died? Would you be interested in support in dealing with your loss (doesn't have to be recent)? You are welcome to join us this group to offer you some support. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 21, at 10:30 am** in the Lounge at Zion. Pastor Mark will be leading us. If you have questions, please call Marcia S. @ 681-6242.

**PIE AUCTION** Thank you to all who donated and supported the Pie Auction. Receipts were \$2,640.

**STEWARDSHIP** (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

November 22-28: income: \$5,194.

Nov. 1-28 income: \$25,527.

Year to Date income Jan 1– Nov. 28: \$284,045.

2021 budget \$353,032. / \$6,789. is needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

Vanco Electronic Giving is available - forms are on the table by the office. You can also set up contributions thru Zion's website.

**Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®** Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars directions can make a profound impact.

**ENVELOPE BOXES** will be available to pick up soon. Those who receive boxed envelopes should note that they have been renumbered for 2022. Most contributors will have a new contributor number in 2022. Please do not use the 2022 envelopes until after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**LSS RESPITE CARE** - Thursdays, 9am-1pm in the Lounge. For more info contact Julie Praska Moser at 218-686-6229

**LSS CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** will meet on Thursday, December 9th from 10-11:00 AM at Zion. All caregivers are welcome, you do not need to register. Please spread the word to those who can benefit from this group. More info Julie Praska Moser 218-686-6228

**The Pennington County Salvation Army** is in need of bell ringers for the Red Kettle Campaign this season. The Red Kettles are the main source of funding for the Pennington County Salvation Army Unit Funds raised are used to help those in our community in crisis. Bell ringers are needed from Nov. 29th through Dec. 24th. Shifts are 2 hours long and are indoors. Please contact Nicole Peterson at 218-689-3508 for more information or to schedule a time to volunteer.

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*Ministers:* Every Member of the Congregation  
Mark Helgeland, *Interim Pastor*  
Tiffany Sterry & David Lee, *Custodial*

*Office Phone:* 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048  
Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net):

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

### **Today - Dec. 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent**

9:00 Holy Communion Worship at Zion/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;  
10-11 Sunday School  
10:00 Coffee fellowship  
10:30 Worship at Silver Creek  
11:00 Christian Ed & Youth Board meeting  
12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37  
1:00 Diane Johnson's Voice recital  
Voice rehearsals in sanctuary

### **Monday, Dec 6:**

9 SAIL  
7 Troop 59  
Voice rehearsals in sanctuary

### **Tuesday, Dec 7:**

9:30 Staff meeting  
11-1 RSVP in Lounge  
12 noon Pastors Text study  
1:00 Foundation meeting

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

6 Cub Scouts  
Voice rehearsals in sanctuary  
6:20 Parish Fellowship Board

### **Wednesday, Dec. 8:**

5:15 Confirmation Supper  
6 Confirmation classes  
6 God's Joy  
7 Senior Choir

### **Thursday, Dec. 9:**

9 SAIL  
9-1 LSS Respite Care in lounge  
10-11 LSS Caregivers Support Group

### **Friday, Dec 10:**

7 Men's Breakfast

### **Next Sunday, Dec 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:00 Worship at Zion/Baptism/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;  
10-11 Sunday School  
10 January Sharing servants meeting in lounge  
10:00 Coffee fellowship  
10:30 Silver Creek Christmas program  
12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37  
4:00 Laura Rude's Voice recital



Sunday School meets from 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Thank you to our student families who are providing treats for coffee fellowship!

### 1ST ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION - TODAY

As a family, create a gingerbread house at home made of cookies, candies and frosting (must be edible) and bring to Zion's Fellowship Hall Dec. 5th by 10 AM for judging.



Sunday School Christmas Program is December 19th at 9 AM.



Christian Ed & Youth Board is meeting at 11AM today.

### December 19 - Food and Fellowship

(formerly Flapjacks for Faith) in the Fellowship Hall. We will be doing Food and Fellowship the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Donations during these events will go towards new furniture for our Sunday school classrooms.

### 8-10TH GRADE WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION

A meal will be served at 5:15 followed by classes at 6PM.

December 8 menu: Spaghetti & meatballs, \$4.00. pop/ water bottle .50 cents

December 15 - No Class—Special Friend Bingo Christmas Party

Next Confirmation Class – January 5

**CONFIRMATION PARENTS: Please sign up for REMIND. You may be missing out on important information. To sign up text: @ziontrf to 81010**

#### Available in the church office:

2022 God's Creation Calendars \$8.00

Magnetic notepads with bible verses \$4.00

Christmas cards \$7.00 for 12 cards

Blank photo notecards \$7.00 for 12 cards