

# Zion Lutheran Church



Fourth Midweek Advent  
Service  
December 21, 2016

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** leaders are needed for the January Sunday school unit "Jesus is Baptized". Available stations include: Art, Cookery, Games, Science, and Spiritual Practices. A helper for the preschool group is also needed. Please email [sundayschool@zxcb.org](mailto:sundayschool@zxcb.org) to sign up.
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES** are now available in the back of the church. Please take your envelopes. Any questions please see Nancy Klemash.
- **JUBILEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** is seeking substitute teachers for grades K-8 at its Mt. Lebanon & Dormont campuses. Small class sizes in an atmosphere of prayer, praise and encouragement make Jubilee a great place to teach. Candidates must have a degree in elementary education or secondary education and a minimum of 2 years teaching experience. Visit their website at [www.jubilee.org](http://www.jubilee.org) to apply online or call 412-561-5917 to learn more.
- **WELCOME CENTER!** Are you a guest or visitor looking for information about Zion? Hello and welcome to Zion! Stop by the table in the foyer after the service and we'll try to help.
- **BIBLE IN A YEAR** readings are available on our church's website and in your monthly Zion Newsletter. Join us as we read the Bible in a Year in 2016!
- **CHURCH NURSERY:** Is available for kids age 0-2 during the 10:30 Service! The Nursery ("Little Lions") is open during the late service in the lower level of the building. (If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an Usher or Greeter for assistance.)
- **NEED PRAYER?** Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the Chancel area.
- **TODAY'S GOSPEL READING AND SERMON** will be posted to the ZLCB.org website later today. For an archive of older sermons, visit [www.zxcb.org/sermons](http://www.zxcb.org/sermons)

# Welcome to worship!

Welcome to Worship!

Tonight we come to the end of our Advent series, and to the end of the Bible itself! Revelation chapter 22 gives us the beautiful vision of paradise restored, the work of Christ on the behalf of fallen humanity has led to the restoration of creation. The people of God live in His presence again without the barrier of sin separating them from Him. The curse of sin is gone and creation no longer bears the burden of sinful influence. "They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5).

Tonight we focus on the coming of Jesus in the future. The people of old looked for his coming. Mary and Joseph received news of his coming in advance. He came to dwell among us and even now he dwells among us in His Word and Sacraments. Tonight we look at the future (he will come) and our plea to him in light of his coming, "Come, Lord Jesus". Why would we ask that Jesus come again? What is that return going to look like? We'll use several Scripture passages to explore those questions this evening.

May God Bless Your Worship!

-Vicar Joshua

*Rev. Eric Carlson, Vacancy Pastor*  
*Office Phone: 412-221-4776*

*Vicar Joshua Ulm*  
*Website: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)*



**ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.**

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

# The Service of the Word

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books, located at either end of the pew. If you are visiting us this morning and would like to be contacted by the church, please indicate so in the Attendance Book. We are glad you chose to worship at Zion this morning!)

## *Prelude*

## *Introduction to Worship and Announcements*

## *Opening Hymn: Hymn Sing*

## *Opening Versicles*

Vicar: O Lord, open my lips.

**People: And my mouth will declare your praise.**

Vicar: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**People: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

V: Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

C: Come quickly Lord, Maranatha

## *Kyrie-LSB 152*

V In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

V 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 mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Amen.**

## ***Salutation and Collect of the Day***

V The Lord be with you

**C And also with you**

V Let us pray... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## ***The Sharing of the Peace***

V The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## **Old Testament Reading:**

## **Malachi 4**

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

## ***Advent Responsory (please stand)***

V Stir up your strength, o Lord, and come

**C To reign over Your people Israel**

V I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

**C Stir up your strength, o Lord, and come. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

V The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the First Chapter.

**C Glory to You O Lord.**

**New Testament Reading: Revelation 22**

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

**Gospel Reading:****Matthew 24:36-44**

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

V This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***Sermon Hymn: O Bride of Christ, Rejoice***

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***Sermon***

***The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.



From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### ***The Collection of the Offering***

If you are visiting with us this morning, know that your presence here means far more to us than any gift of money you could make; please do not hesitate to let the plate pass you by.

### ***Communal Prayer***

This evening we will open up the floor for prayer requests. Vicar will begin with several petitions and then we will continue with a period of silence. During the silence, you may voice your petition saying For \_\_\_\_\_ and concluding "let us pray to the Lord i.e. "For Mark, that his cancer would be healed, let us pray to the Lord". The congregation will respond "Lord have mercy". If two people talk at the same time, one person will stop and continue with the next petition.

C ... let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

V for these and for all our needs of body and soul let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

V Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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.**

***Benedicamus***

V: Let us bless the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

***Benediction***

V The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn: What Hope! An Eden Prophesied!***

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V: Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus

C: Come quickly Lord, Maranatha

V: Go in peace and serve the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude***

**† *Service Participants* †**

Vicar:

Joshua Ulm

Music Director:

Mark Killinger

The Organist:

Sandra Quinlan

The Elders:

John Gielarowski & Mike Sterba

Altar Guild:

Janet & Marian Oelschlager

A Bible Study for Teen Girls

# Seamless

Understanding the  
Bible as One Complete Story



angie smith

Who: Girls 7th grade and up

Begins: Sunday, January 8th

Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Sign up: Use the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary or email  
Katie Gielarowski @ [sundayschool@zfc.com](mailto:sundayschool@zfc.com)

LifeWay | Girls

**Operation:  
Bags of Love**



**Help support our  
troops!**

Last year, we sent **264** bags of love to American troops in Afghanistan, Korea and Greenland.

**Help make our 5<sup>th</sup> year the BEST EVER.**

Your mission? Bring the following items and place in one of the Operation Stars and Stripes collection boxes:

**Ramen Noodles**

**Drink Mix Singles** (Propel, Coffee, etc.)

Snack sized packages of **Granola Bars**

Snack sized packages of **Jerky** or **Slim Jims**

Chewing **Gum**

Gallon-sized **ZipLok** Bags

Other ways you can help:

Monetary donations to help with shipping costs (*make checks payable to Zion Lutheran church and label "OSS"*)

Write a **Letter of Encouragement** to a soldier. Must be written on provided letterhead.

Draw a **Picture** on our Operation: Bags of Love drawing page.

**Pray** for our troops.

Help Sunday school kids assemble items on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am.

*(Letterhead and drawing pages are available in the Narthex, school lobby and on the Sunday school tab at [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org).)*

**Collections begin Sunday, December 11th**

Thank you for your donations!  
~Zion Lutheran Sunday school

For more information about Operation: Stars and Stripes, Inc., please visit their website at [www.operationstarsandstripes.org](http://www.operationstarsandstripes.org).