

“For my eyes have  
seen your salvation  
that you have  
prepared  
in the presence  
of all peoples.”

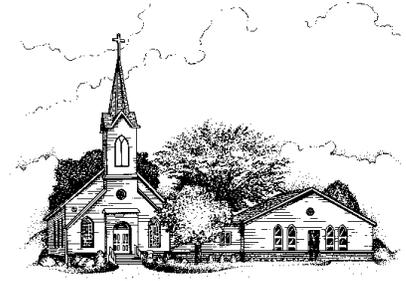
LUKE 2:30-31

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

December 27, 2020

## Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D Allenton, Wisconsin 53002  
*Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*  
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### Welcome to God's House

What do you see in the baby Jesus? What do you celebrate at Christmas? A cute little baby or the only Savior this world will ever know? Today, through the eyes of Simeon, we see the miracle of Christmas...Christ our Savior for all people. In him we have peace, for him we live.

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### SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

#### Opening Hymn

#### Where Shepherds Lately Knelt #54

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

#### Invocation

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of

the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Confession of Sins**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: 🎵 Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: 🎵 Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: 🎵 Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: 🎵 Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C:  **Let us all with gladsome voice praise the God of heaven, CW #64:1-3  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, his own Son has given.**

**To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sadness,  
That with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in gladness.**

**We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore here on earth and yonder.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

M: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  **Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Isaiah 45:20-25**

<sup>20</sup> “Gather together and come; assemble, you fugitives from the nations.

Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.

<sup>21</sup> Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together.

Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past?

Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me,

a righteous God and a Savior;

there is none but me.

<sup>22</sup> “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth;

for I am God, and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity

a word that will not be revoked:

Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

<sup>24</sup> They will say of me, ‘In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.’”

All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.

<sup>25</sup> But all the descendants of Israel will find deliverance in the Lord and will make their boast in him.

## Psalm 111

M: Great are the works of the LORD;

C: **they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

M: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

C: **and his righteousness endures forever.**

M: He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

C: **the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

M: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

C: **all his precepts are trustworthy.**

M: He provided redemption for his people;

C: **he ordained his covenant forever.**

M: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

C: **all who follow his precepts have good understanding.**

### *Refrain*



Sing to the Lord a new song, for



he has done mar - vel - ous things.

## Gospel

Luke 2:25-40

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

**C:   🎵   Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**Hymn of the Day**

**O Light of Gentile Nations   CW #78:1, 2, 4**

O Light of Gentile nations, O Savior from above,  
Drawn by your Spirit’s leading, we come with joy and love  
Into your holy temple and wait with rev’rent mind  
As Simeon once had waited his God and Lord to find.

Dear Lord, your servants meet you in ev’ry holy place  
Where your true Word has promised that we should see your face.  
Today you still allow us who gather round you here

In arms of faith to hold you as did that aged seer.

Let us, O Lord, be faithful like Simeon to the end  
So that his prayer exultant may from our hearts ascend:  
“O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, I pray,  
Since I have seen my Savior and here beheld his day.”

**Sermon**

**Luke 2:25-40**

***Look for the Savior, Not Just a Baby***

**The 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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

**Offering**

*the offering plates are situated near the exit door*

*The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

### The Sacrament

M: The Lord be with you.

C:  **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C:  **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C:  **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C:  **Amen.**

C:  **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

### Distribution Hymn

### From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come #38

"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;

This little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will himself your Savior be from all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow prepared by God for all below,  
That in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.

“These are the signs which you shall mark: the swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid by whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

How glad we’ll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done in sending us his own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, and see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christchild lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery that you might share your joy with me.

Ah, Lord, though you created all, how weak you are, so poor and small,  
That you should choose to lay your head where lowly cattle lately fed!

Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small a cradle for the Lord of all.

Instead of soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great, to be enthroned in royal state.

And so it pleases you to see this simple truth revealed to me:  
That all the world’s wealth, honor, might are weak and worthless in your sight.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, made clean and new, a quiet chamber kept for you.

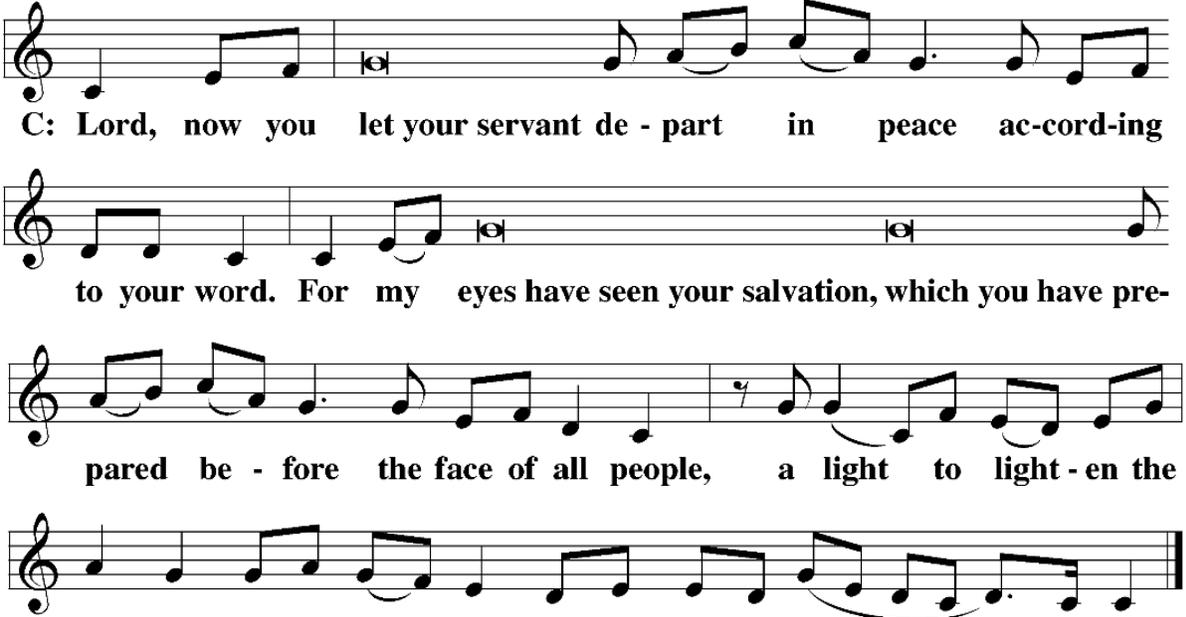
My heart for very joy must leap; my lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us his Son has given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth.

After the distribution, the minister says:

M: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in the true faith until life everlasting. Depart in peace. Amen.

### Song of Simeon

C: 

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:  Amen.

### Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C:   🎵 Amen. Amen. Amen.

**Closing Hymn                                    Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing    CW #329:1 & 3**

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

So whene'er the signal's given us from earth to call away,  
Borne on angels' wings to heaven, glad the summons to obey,  
May we ever, may we ever reign with Christ in endless day.

**This Week at Zion**

<b>Today:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Thu:</b>	7:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Sun:</b>	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship
	8:30 a.m.	Adult bible study
	10:45 a.m.	Christmas undecorating

**Transferred to the Church Triumphant** The Lord called Kent Allison home early last Saturday morning (12-19-2020). The funeral and committal services were held this past Wednesday, 12-23-2020). May all who grieve be reminded of God's certain promise that because Jesus lives, so will all who believe in him.

**In Our Prayers** Milton Griepentrog, back home recovering from a stroke; Diane Bartelt, back home at Kettle Moraine Gardens in hospice care; Lester Hahn Jr., home from the hospital and being treated for some infections; and Norman Martin, at Hope Health and Rehab in Lomira.

**New Year's Eve Worship** Join us this Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. for a special worship service in God's house as gather to ask his blessing and guidance on a new year.

**Lord's Supper** We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive Holy Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members

of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice.

**We thank** Barb Olsen for serving as our accompanist this morning.

**The flowers** on the altar today are placed to God's glory by Henry and Barbara Kluever on the occasion of their anniversary.

**The flower chart** for 2021 is up on the bulletin board at the top of the entrance ramp. Cost for one setting is \$9 and there are two settings / Sunday. Please write your name and the occasion on the line on the chart.

**Calendars** and copies of the *Forward in Christ* for January are available on the cabinets in the entryway.

**Offering envelope boxes** for 2021 can be found on the table in the entryway. If there happens to be a mistake or if you cannot find yours, please call our financial secretary, Gene Salzman, at 262-323-1990.

**Undecorating Day** We could use as many hands as we can get next Sunday after the late worship service to help undecorate the fellowship hall. It won't take long if we get enough help.

**Winter Weather** During the sometimes messy winter weather, please try to clean your shoes off before you come in so we can keep God's house as clean as possible.

