



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Pastor Willie Rosin's Email**  
**Pastor Willie Rosin's Cell**  
**Zion's Office Email**  
**Zion's Phone Number**

**[pastorwillie.rosin@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwillie.rosin@gmail.com)**  
**320-444-7277**  
**[zionmuscatine@gmail.com](mailto:zionmuscatine@gmail.com)**  
**563-263-5074**

**Presiding Minister – Rev. Willie Rosin**  
**Assisting Minister – Sunday School**  
**Music Minister – Sue Robinson**  
**Holy Communion Everlasting Light Liturgy Setting**

Welcome to worship here at Zion on this Third Sunday of Advent – we are glad you're here! Today we have the joy of hearing and seeing the Christmas Story as told by our Zion Sunday Schools kids. Please join in singing the Christmas carols and stanzas as noted in the bulletin. Following the Christmas Story portion of the service, we will continue in worship with the Nicene Creed, Prayers of Intercession, and celebration of Holy Communion. Thank you for joining us for this special day!

**WORSHIP NOTES:**

Thank you for joining us! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a Visitor Card, located in your pew rack, if you would like to have us contact you.

We practice an open communion table at Zion. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion with us, from the youngest to the oldest members of the body of Christ present in worship.

Children are welcome to fully participate in worship. What could be better than the whole family of God being together in worship? There are Children's worship bags available near the usher's table in the narthex. Should you or your child need a break, there is a nursery located across from Fellowship Hall for your use.

Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Mothers' Room, just two doors down the hall from the nursery. Please knock before entering.

**+ Indicates that you are invited to rise as you are able**

**BOLD PRINT INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES**

Hymn numbers are the large numbers at the top of the page in the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, which is located in the pew racks.

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BELL CALLING US TO WORSHIP**

‡ **GATHERING** ‡

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**+ INVOCATION**

We gather in the name of God, the Creator of Light; † Jesus, the Light of the World; and the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path.

**Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - *Light the Candle* verse 3**

*Gently p*

Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is  
here! Wel-come the joy we crave and pay for, but  
on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and  
glow with joy, light up the world a - round you.  
Flick - er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -  
round you.

**+ GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

Let us pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God;

**open our ears to the of your message to prepare the way and rejoice in your salvation. Lead us to bring forth the fruits of repentance in response to your goodness and love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**



# A CHRISTMAS STORY







## ~STARRING~

Narrator 1 Phoebe.

Narrator 2 Maura G.

Mary (with doll Jesus) Grace G. Joseph, Sawyer D.

Innkeepers (2) Lydia R. Josephine G (Jo Jo)

Shepherd Group Paisley D. Morgan S. Bobby S.

Sheep Group Tucker D. Auggie. Jonas. Ezra

Leader Angels (2) Maura G. Evie E.

Angel Group Abner R.

Stage Hands Briar E., Emma



**Narrator 1:** And it came to pass in those Days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

**Narrator 2:** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, in Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and family of David), to be taxed with Mary, his fiancée, who was great with child.

**Mary & Joseph:** Where can we stay? Let's go to this inn. Maybe we can stop here.

**2 Innkeepers:** We have no room in our inn. Come to the stable, where we keep the animals.

**Mary & Joseph:** We are so tired. Thank you

**2 Innkeepers:** Here is the manger where our animals eat. You can stay here.

**Narrator 1:** And so it was, that while they were there, the time came for the baby to be born.

**Narrator 2:** And she gave birth to her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Christmas Carol**  
**All children & congregation sing**  
**Angels We Have Heard on High ELW #289 (verse 1)**

**Narrator 1:** And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night.

**Narrator 2:** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone on them, and they were very frightened.

**Shepherd Group:** There's so much light! What is happening?

**Sheep Group:** We are scared!

**Narrator 1:** The angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

**Narrator 2:** And this shall be a sign to you: You will find the babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**Narrator 1:** And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will, toward all.

**2 Leader Angels:** Don't be afraid! We have good news! Christ the Lord is born today!

**Shepherd Group:** We don't understand.

**2 Leader Angels:** You will find Jesus, the Messiah, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**Angel Group:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all!

**Christmas Carol**  
**All children and congregation sing**  
***Angels We Have Heard on High ELW289 (verse 2)***

**Narrator 2:** And it came to pass, as the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let's go to Bethlehem, and see this wonderful thing which has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

**Narrator 1:** They ran to the village, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they told everyone what had happened concerning this child.

**All shepherds and sheep:** Glory to God! Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to us. Let's tell others what has happened.

**All angels:** Glory to God!

**Narrator 2:** All people that heard it wondered at those things which were told to them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**Christmas Carol**  
**All children and congregation sing**  
***Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290 (verse 3)***

**+ 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**

**Prayers of Intercession**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence., responding to each petition with "**hear our prayer**".

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**+ SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always

**And also with you.**

‡ **MEAL** ‡

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

*Thank you for supporting God's ministry and mission through the people of Zion Lutheran Church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.*

*We have online giving options available through [Tithe.ly](https://Tithe.ly) which allows you to give through the app, online, and even make weekly, biweekly, or monthly donations on a regular schedule. If you are interested in electronic giving options, please contact the church office.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

***I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day***

**Zion Choir**



### + OFFERING PRAYER

God of Light, our world is filled with shadows.

**Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen**

### + GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good...we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light.

**Amen.**

### + HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

### + WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*On the Night*

### + THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language of your heart:

**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.**

## + INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

*Please come forward for communion as directed. We will serve communion by continuous distribution with one station for bread in the center and a station for wine on each side. Please receive wine from the side on which you are sitting and return to your seat by walking down the side aisle. If you are unable or would prefer not to come forward, please inform one of the ushers and communion will be brought to where you are seated. If you do not wish to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward with arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available in the separate small dish on the bread tray. Please let Pastor Willie know if you would like a gluten-free wafer. If you wish to receive grape juice rather than wine, please indicate this preference by approaching the communion server with your hand out and palm down. The grape juice is located in the center ring of the communion tray. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, young and old, are welcome at this feast.*

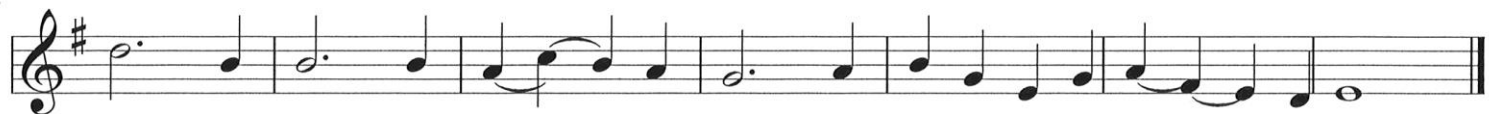
## LAMB OF GOD



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your



peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-



joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*What Feast of Love*

**WOV 701**

*Holy Child within the Manger*

**WOV 638**

*Here in This Place*

**WOV 718**

**+ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, † now and forever.

**Amen**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace. We ask this in your holy name.

**Amen.**

‡ **SENDING** ‡

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

**+ BLESSING**

God who spoke light and creation into being,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
† bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**+ SENDING HYMN**

*All Earth is Hopeful*

**WOV 629**

**+Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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