Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

January 5, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"



WELCOME

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

GATHERING

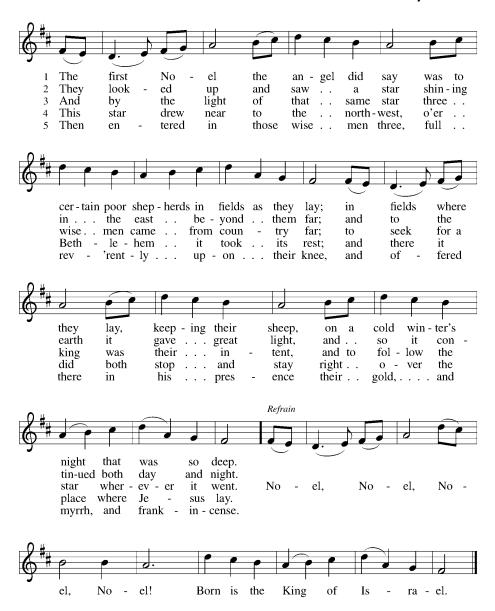
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. **Amen.**

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

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.



CALL TO WORSHIP

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

And also with you.

Holy one, we are drawn to the manger that leads to the cross.

Holy one, your light shines in the midst of our fears.

Eternal light, you star leads us to the empty tomb.

The hopes and tears of all our years find healing and forgiveness.

Holy one, guide us with your lights and love.

The hopes and tears of all our years find freedom and renewal.

Christ has come. Christ is here. Christ will come again!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." 8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." 11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. 14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

(Congregation reads the bold)

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

- ¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁵ God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
- ¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- ¹⁹ God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
- ²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the

praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat)

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said,

'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ")

16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama SERMON "Love Has Come" Red Hymnal #292 SERMON SONG light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the Love has come— a born! Come, share in the God now a -Love is won - der. Love is Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim sleep in hay. glow in his the See the the eyes of moth - er: Je - sus with - in last - ing and free. Love is and a - mong us. of hear how their song joy Love! Love! Born un - to a - ris - es: what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing. Love! Love! Love is the Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high. you, name she whis - pers; Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u -Love! el. Christ-mas. Love! Praise to you, God on gift Love! high!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

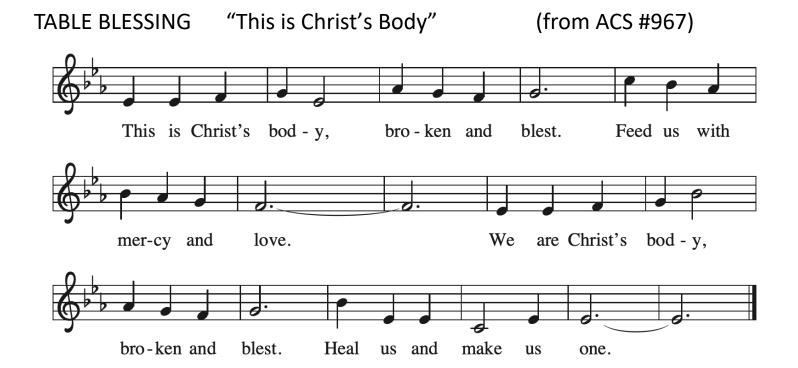
And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.





THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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

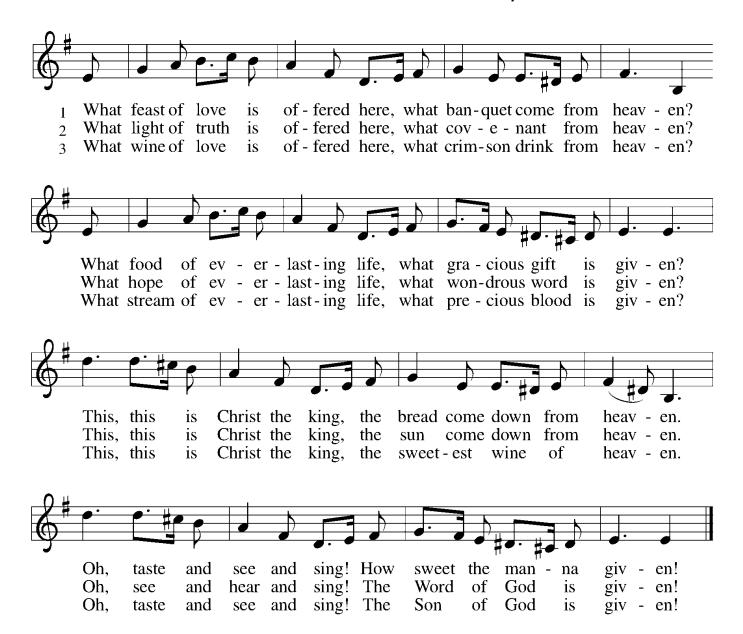
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

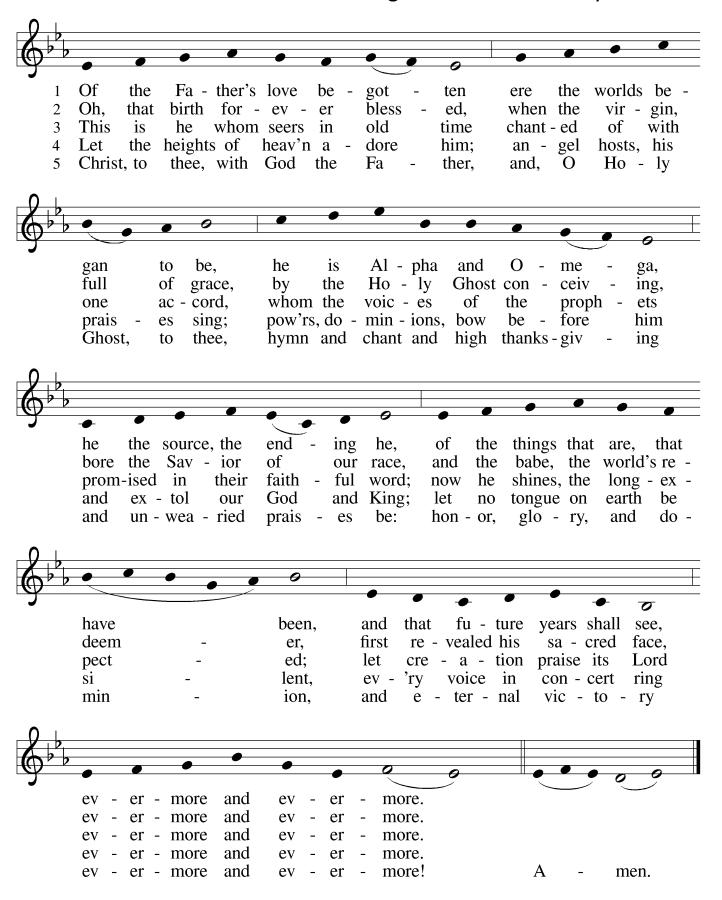
Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS "What Feast of Love" Red Hymnal #487





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

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

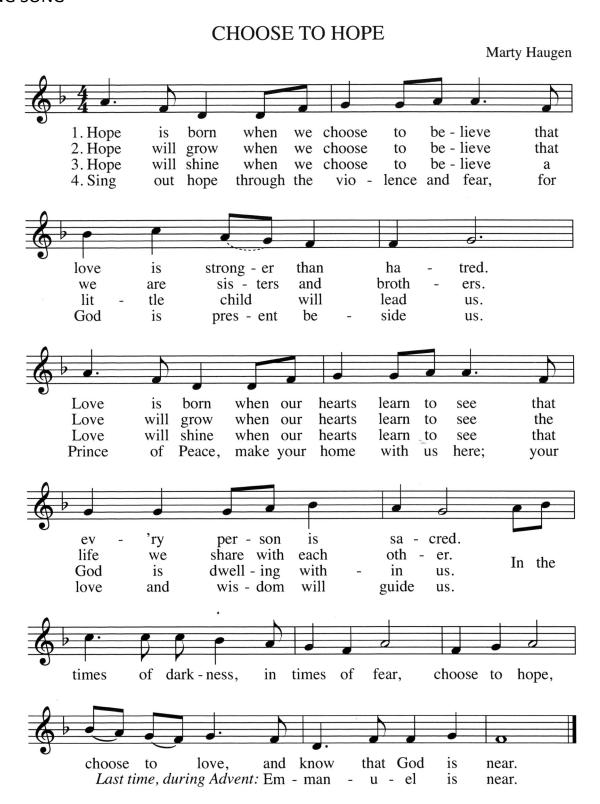
The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace,

illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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



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SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bethphage **Travelers** Reunion

Host: Pastor Bitner

January 12, 2025

3pm at Katie's Cup Food and Drink Music by Steve Johnson









Twentyfirst Anniversary

Celebrating Dreams

January 15, 2025 Sunday at 11:00am



"IN THE GARDEN..."

Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Legacy Award Recipient: Tedd Snowden





Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

Congregational

ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW January 19, 2025 at 10:30am

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2025 9:15am Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting

KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATIONS

"Zoom Communion & the New Reformation" Rev. Stephen Bowie

January 21, 2025 Tuesday at Noon

KATIE'S CUP - 502 SEVENTH STREET



BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church - Youth Center!





WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Janice Forrest

Fellowship:

Media:

Music: Jodi Beach

Readers:

Sound: Deangelo Brunson

Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

Nurse Jori—My goal in this role is not only to serve you with the greatest care and love, but to get to know all of you so that I can provide the best care possible. My office is located next to the nursery at the end of the hall, past the kitchen. My office hours are 10am-12pm Monday and Wednesday. Please stop by and say hi! If you are unable to come see me, please give the church a call and leave a voicemail for me, call me on my cell at 630.465.2135, or email me at Jori.L.Roysdon@osfhealthcare.org. I can come see you if you are unable to travel to me!

WORSHIP LEADERS Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date: During January we are requesting donations of Canned Fruit for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you so much for your help! There is a group of women that send Christmas cards to our area assisted living facilities. This year they sent out 3000 cards to residents! They are asking to collect more cards for next year. If you have any unused cards with envelopes, would you please bring them to church. Just leave them in the Narthex or the church office. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Grapevine for WOZ activities. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Nursery. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

ANNUAL REPORTS - For those committee chairs, partners and staff we ask you to submit your annual report in writing or email to Jolyn at zionrockford@gmail.com. Please add any photos of events you have held throughout the year! We ask for these reports to be submitted as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact Jolyn by email or phone the office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer
as little as 2 hours a month
Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.
Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

Cornucopia



PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidlar, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.



- Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish
- ♦ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ♦ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ♦ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones.
- For healing: Dana (cousin of Shanita Baker), Eloise Anderson, Darleen Bates, David Bates, Jessica Brown, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Brian Veitch, Diane Wegner, Gary Wegner, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

| Sunday | 9:15am | Second Sunday of Christmas Worship |
|-------------|---------|--|
| Monday | | Epiphany |
| | 9:30am | Book Study—Nursery |
| Tuesday | 6:00pm | Church Council—Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 8:00am | Book Study—Stockholm Inn |
| | 9:00pm | February Grapevine Deadline |
| | 11:00am | Missions and Evangelism Team—Nursery |
| | 4:00pm | WOW Leaders—Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 11:00am | Finance Team—Nursery |
| | 4:00pm | Katie's Cup Board |
| | 5:30pm | Zion Development Board |
| Saturday | 1:00pm | Ruthie's Kitchen |
| Sunday | 9:15am | Baptism of our Lord Sunday |
| | 11:00am | Celebrating Dreams Gospel Jamboree |
| | | UPCOMING |
| January 19 | 10:30am | Annual Report review at 10:30am |
| January 26 | 10:30am | Congregational Meeting in the Fellowship Hall |
| January 27 | 1:00pm | Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall |
| February 1 | 9:00am | Valentine Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup |
| February 11 | 8:30am | RVC English as a second language resumes |
| February 16 | 10:30am | Forum: Alzheimer Association—Fellowship Hall |
| February 18 | 3:00pm | Zion Outreach—Nursery |
| February 23 | 10:30am | Forum: Reconciled in Christ Congregations? |

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- Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93
- ^ https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024