

The Third Sunday of Advent + December 11, 2011 AD + 9:00 and 11:00 AM

“The Greatness of the Lord”



A Prayer Upon Entering Church

Come, O Son of God, who rules at the Father’s right hand! Come, and let your power be known in this hour, that tears may turn to joy, and all your faithful people, gathered into this house, may rejoice in you. Yes, come, Lord Jesus, and rule among us! Amen ~ *an anonymous prayer*

Welcome. To be the Church is to live in hope of the Lord’s final appearing. Centuries ago, all of Israel was waiting for him, too, and asked St. John the Baptist if he was the Christ. St. John denied it—*No!*—and pointed to the Greater One who comes among us even today, that God’s holy Church might rejoice—and again, rejoice!

Parents: Children are welcome at our services. For parents who desire it, a nursery with an attendant is downstairs.

*Our delight is
to be with
God, not be-
cause He can
supply us
with some-
thing, with
greatness, for
instance, but
because He is
our God and
because He
loves us.
~ Martin
Franzmann,
1966 A.D.*

PRELUDE

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

... Leavitt & Albrecht

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

... Manz

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: 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.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel.

(silence for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage 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

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church, and by the authority of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” green hymnal #25

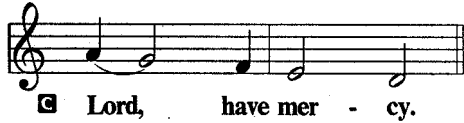
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

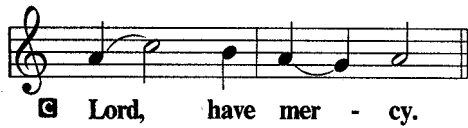
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

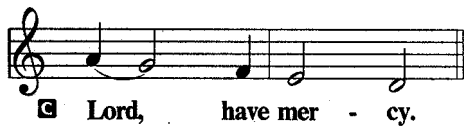
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



*Consider, O faithful soul,
His immeasurable love
towards thee!
A love that brought Him
from heaven to earth; a
love that bound Him to
the post to be scourged; a
love that nailed Him
to the cross . . .*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Lord Jesus Christ, we implore you to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126

L: When the LORD restored the for 'tunes of Zion,*
then were we like 'those who dream.

C: **Then was our mouth 'filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with 'shouts of joy.**

L: Then they said a 'mong the nations, *
"The LORD has done great 'things for them."

**C: The LORD has done great 'things for us, *
and we are 'glad indeed.**

L: Restore our for 'tunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses 'of the Negev.

**C: Those who 'sowed with tears *
will reap with 'songs of joy.**

L: Those who go out weeping, carry 'ing the seed, *
will come again with joy, shoulder 'ing their sheaves.

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

*... a love
that enclosed
Him in the
sepulcher; a
love that
dragged Him
down to hell!
What led Him
to suffer all
this, but a
tender love
for His
spouse, His
bride, the
Church?
~ Johann
Gerhard,
1606 A.D.*

John the Baptist, of all men, is totally unconcerned about any greatness of his own; for his greatness is an Advent greatness, the greatness of a man for whom the great question in history is no longer, "What is coming? What will become of me?" but rather, "Who is coming?"
 ~ Martin Franzmann
 1966 A.D.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.



⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



NICENE CREED

C: 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Please be seated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 a.m.)

During the singing of the hymn, children of preschool age through grade 4 may leave for Sunday School classes downstairs in the church hall. Please reclaim your children after the divine service.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say: "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

SERMON

"The Greatness of the Lord"

Please kneel.

PRAYERS

P: Living in the hope of our Lord’s arrival, let us pray for the Church and all creation.

P: . . . let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

VOLUNTARY

“Once He Came in Blessing”

... Held

Please stand.

OFFERTORY “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

**My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior’s praise!
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
Now ev’ry land and ev’ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
Great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.**

P: Let us pray . . . Gracious Father, with this bread and cup, we remember the life our Lord offered for us. Believing in the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



☞ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

□ We lift them to the Lord.

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

□ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

□ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 tempta-

*Instead of a
lamb there
was a son,
and instead of
the sheep a
man;*

*in the man
was Christ
encompassing
all things . . .*

*For he was
born a son,
and led as a
lamb,*

*and slaugh-
tered as a
sheep, and
buried as a
man,*

*and rose from
the dead as
God, being
God by na-
ture, and a
man.*

*He is all
things . . .
This is Jesus
Christ, to
whom be
glory forever
and ever.*

*~ A hymn by
Romanus
Melodus,
about
550 A.D.*

tion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Hark, the Glad Sound!” green hymnal #35

“Once He Came in Blessing” green hymnal #312

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee,
My heartfelt thanks forever be;
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me thy body and thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, in joy and say:
What wealth has come to me today,
What health of body, mind, and soul!
Christ dwells within me, makes me whole.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



✠ HOLY COMMUNION ✠

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Zion in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Children may receive the sacrament after completing first communion class. Zion holds this class at the end of the child's 4th grade year.

Distribution: You may receive the Supper at either the altar rail or the chapel. To commune at the chapel, please proceed down the center aisle with the other communicants, and inform the usher at the front pew that you desire to commune at the chapel.

Communion Cards: Both members and visitors are asked to use a "Communion Registration" card. This enables our pastors to provide ministry and personal attention within the Zion family. When visitors include a church name and city on the card, we will mail it to that church.

Today's Participants:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Ted Gulhaugen

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Steven Gjerde

Guest Organist: Rodney Riese

Vocalist: (9:00) Steve Zeinemann

(11:00) Jim Speckhard

Lector: (9:00) Michael Goetsch

(11:00) Brian Boettcher

Ushers: (9:00) Marty Dettmering; Lee Anderton; Janet Dettmering;

Ruth Draeger; Roger Ormond

(11:00) Al Lippert; Herbert Zahrt

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Grace Mueller; Steve Zeinemann

(11:00) Gary Gisselman; Judy Radloff

Acolyte: (9:00) Alec Fernstaedt

(11:00) Ben Schubring

Elder: (9:00) Marlene Kroening

(11:00) Dave Gisselman

Altar Guild: Ruth Draeger; Donna Nuernberg

For You This Week

December 11—18, 2011

Sharing God's Blessings

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Marilyn and Bob Stankowski in memory of Marilyn's parents, Ehardt and Leona Liesch, and sister-in-law, Sharon Liesch.

Baptism

Avery Grace Kluck, daughter of Brad and Heather Kluck, was baptized on Saturday, December 10. Avery's sponsors are Andrew MacIntyre and Rachel Kluck.

Bible Study in the Church Hall

- Sunday, 10:15 a.m., A Catechism on Human Life
- Tuesday, 9:00 a.m., 2 John
- Thursday, 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast; Ezra 4:1

Wednesday Worship at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.: "Fear: Fear's Holiness"

Worship Notes

This Sunday, the Third Sunday in Advent, is "Rejoice" Sunday (Gaudate). The liturgical color is rose. On this Sunday our Advent devotion momentarily lightens as the festival of our Lord's birth nears.

Midweek Advent Worship: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.:

Theme: "Fear"; Dec. 14: "Fear's Holiness"; Dec. 21: "Joy in Fear"

Sunday School Presentation: Saturday, December 17

5:15 p.m., with Holy Communion

Eve of the Nativity: Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m.: Festival of Lessons and Carols

8:00 p.m.: Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio, 550AM

The Nativity of Our Lord: Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m.: Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio, 550AM

No 11 a.m. Service

New Year's Eve: Saturday, December 31; 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

The Feast of Epiphany: Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion, beginning with a Festival Procession

The Epiphany celebrates the arrival of travelers from the east ("wise men") to worship the newborn King. It extends from sundown on January 5 to sundown on January 6 and bridges the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. What is a "Festival Procession"? Come, join the eastern travelers, and see . . .

Sunday School News

This year's pageant will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 5:15 p.m. as part of the regular 5:15 p.m. service. Practices will be held during Sunday School hour and on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to Gladys Langenhan, who also helped to arrange the display in the sanctuary.

Share Zion

If you have picked up one of Zion's "outreach DVD's", please be sure to share it with someone. If you have not yet picked up a DVD, they are available at the church entrances.

Young at Heart

... meets on Wednesday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. for a catered luncheon in the church hall.

Christmas Tea: Sunday, December 11 from 2—6 p.m. in Zion’s Church Hall

Refer to the insert in today’s bulletin for more information about this event. Someone will be in the church office this weekend after each service to sell tickets.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Christmas Party

... will be held this week on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Zion’s church hall. All are welcome to attend. Thrivent members are asked to bring 6 cookies. The UWMC Choir is the entertainment.

Zion Christmas Caroling

The Zion Outreach Ministry team invites you to join us for an evening of Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. We will meet in the reception area by Zion’s church office . Everyone will receive a copy of a selection of familiar carols. We will carol at Primrose, Forest Park, Wausau Manor and the Zion neighborhood. The evening will finish with pizza in the church hall. We hope you and your family will take the time to join us. If you would like to share the Good News of Christmas with others, please call the church office, 715-848-7286; or email tjpagel@solarus.net.

Zion’s December Mission

Greater Wausau Christian Services: Since 1981, GWCS has provided a pastoral presence and also various programs of support to residents of our community’s institutions. There are 13 churches who are members and also support GWCS. Specifically, the efforts of GWCS has centered on local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the county jail. In addition to jail support and nursing homes, GWCS recently has put a greater emphasis on juvenile facilities and refurbishing the jail library. Your offering to missions is appreciated. Zion’s mission goal for December is \$3,750.00.

Zion Cookbooks, Snowflake Ornaments, and Christmas Cards

Cookbooks cost \$10 each, or 2 cookbooks for \$15. Ornaments cost \$10 each. The cookbooks can be purchased at the church office, or the Everest Inn Bed and Breakfast, 601 McIndoe Street. Christmas cards There are 34 colored cards remaining from the original printing, which depict Zion’s stained glass window of the Nativity. The cards are 4-1/2” x 6” and cost 50 cents per card with an envelope. The ornaments and cards are available at the church office.

Year-End Contributions

Please consider a year-end contribution beyond your regular offering to either the General Fund or the Dale Hansen Fund (our new fund for buildings and grounds). Gathered together, our offerings continue to support to the mission and ministry of God at Zion.

THIS WEEK AT ZION:

December 11—18, 2011

Sun. ADVENT 3

- 9:00 am Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Bible Study
- 11:00 am Holy Communion
- 2:00 — 6:00 pm Christmas Tea in Zion's church hall

Mon. 7:00 pm Mission Team

Tues. 9:00 am Adult Bible Study

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 4:00 pm Morality in Media
- 6:00 pm Thrivent Christmas Party in church hall
- 6:30 pm Elders Team

Weds. 10:00 am Matins Service

- 11:30 am Young at Heart Christmas Party
- 6:30 pm Vespers Service
- 7:15 pm Catechism

Thurs. 7:00 am Men's Bible Class

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat. 5:15 pm Holy Communion / Sunday School Presentation

Sun. ADVENT 4

- 9:00 am Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Bible Study
- 10:15 am Pastor Meets with 5th & 6th Grades
- 11:00 am Holy Communion
- 5:30 pm Christmas Caroling—meet in reception area
by church office

**Zion's 2011
Christmas
Decorating
Fund**

Please refer to the insert page for more information about how you can contribute to this yearly fund.

**Every
Sunday**

The Wausau Daily Herald may be purchased in the narthex or near the church office to benefit Zion youth.

ATTENDANCE:

December 3, 4, & 7

Saturday 5:15 pm: 39

Sunday:

9:00 am 146

11:00 am 59

Wednesday

10:00 am 31

6:30 pm: 35

Total: 310

Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Steven K. Gjerde, Senior Pastor
Theodore B. Gulhaugen, Associate Pastor
Virginia Giese, Kantor
Pam Gabriel, Office Manager
Anna Mae Zeinemann, Secretary
Michael Renken, Head Custodian
Roger Ormond, Custodian

Learning Center: 715-845-7404

Theresa Blake, Directress

To contact us by email:

zion@dwave.net

**For more information,
please visit our webpage:**

www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour

Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM