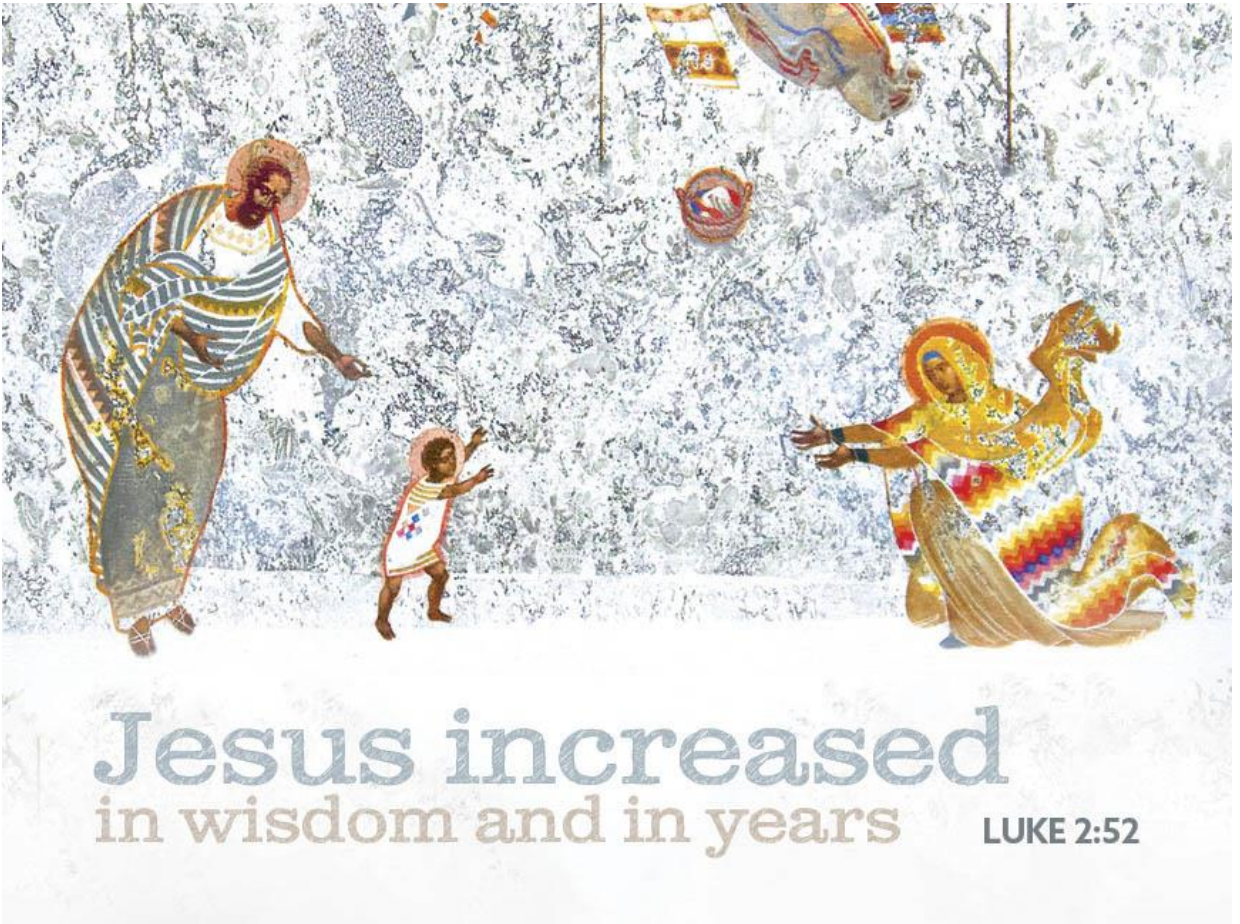


Welcome!



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252
(570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 ~ 9:00 am

The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

On the first Sunday of Christmas, we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

**Congregation please stand*

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

*** The 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.

Please kneel if able.

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.

HEAR THE GOOD NEWS AND REJOICE! YOU ARE GOD’S CHOSEN ONES, HOLY AND BELOVED, † FORGIVEN IN CHRIST, AND FREED TO RESPOND IN JOY.

Amen.

*** The Gathering Hymn**

“The Bells of Christmas”

No. 62

*** The Greeting**

CHRIST IS BORN: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! 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.

*** The Kyrie Eleison** (*music on page 57 of LBW*)

IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

(Sung) **Lord, have mercy.**

FOR THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR OUR SALVATION, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

FOR THIS HOLY HOUSE, AND FOR ALL WHO OFFER HERE THEIR WORSHIP AND PRAISE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy.

HELP, SAVE, COMFORT, AND DEFEND US, GRACIOUS LORD.

Amen.

* **The Hymn of Praise** *(music on page 58 of LBW)*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* **The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 148 Tune "*Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!*" No. 147

HALLELUJAH! PRAISE THE LORD FROM HEAVEN!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praise be heard on high.

PRAISE HIM, ALL YOU HOSTS OF HEAVEN! PRAISE HIM, SUN AND MOON! PRAISE HIM, SHINING STARS AND ALL THE FIRMAMENT!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praises fill the sky.

LET THEM ALL PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD! HE COMMANDED AND THEY WERE CREATED; BY HIS COMMAND THEY WERE FIXED IN THEIR PLACES; THEY CANNOT DISOBEY.

Hallelujah! Glory be To the Lord eternally!

HALLELUJAH! LET THE EARTH JOIN HIS PRAISE: THE SEAS AND ALL THAT DWELL THEREIN, THE FORCES OF NATURE THAT OBEY HIS COMMAND; HILLS AND MOUNTAINS, TREES AND FORESTS, BIRDS AND ANIMALS OF EVERY KIND.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Let his praise be heard on earth.

LET THE PEOPLE PRAISE THE LORD--RULERS AND SUBJECTS, MEN AND WOMEN, THE OLD AND THE YOUNG ALIKE. LET THEM ALL PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! All creation, tell his worth.

HIS NAME IS GREATER THAN ALL OTHERS; HIS GLORY IS ABOVE EARTH AND HEAVEN. HE BLESSES ALL WHO ARE HIS OWN, SO THAT ALL MAY PRAISE HIM.

Hallelujah! Glory be To the Lord eternally!

The Second Lesson Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Gospel Acclamation** *(Alleluia Verse LWB p. 62)*

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** The Holy Gospel St. Luke 2:41-52**

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 2ND CHAPTER:

(Sung) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

(Sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Pastor Cindy White

***The Hymn of the Day**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 71

*** 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; 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 worshipped 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.

*** The Prayers of Intercession**

FILLED WITH GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY, LET US OFFER OUR PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH, THE EARTH, AND ALL PEOPLE.

A brief silence.

FOR THOSE WHO TEACH AND THOSE WHO LEARN, WE PRAY. BLESS THE EDUCATION MINISTRIES OF YOUR CHURCH. GUIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, COLLEGE AND SEMINARY PROFESSORS, AND BIBLE STUDY LEADERS IN OUR ONGOING FAITH FORMATION AND CURIOSITY. GOD OF GRACE,
receive our prayer.

FOR THE THRIVING OF CREATION, WE PRAY. PROTECT THE HABITATS OF PANGOLINS AND PORCUPINES, PENGUINS AND PARROTS, AND ALL WILD ANIMALS AND CREEPING THINGS. INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATURAL WORLD AND THE CARE OF ITS INHABITANTS. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

FOR THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, WE PRAY. RAISE UP RULERS WHO LEAD WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, MEEKNESS, AND PATIENCE. LET YOUR PEACE RULE IN THEIR HEARTS AND IN ALL LANDS. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

FOR THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR PEOPLE, WE PRAY. KEEP WATCH OVER ALL WHO TRAVEL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. ACCOMPANY THOSE WHO ARE ALONE OR ILL ESPECIALLY STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, RALPH, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. CONSOLE PARENTS AND CHILDREN WHOSE RELATIONSHIPS ARE STRAINED OR SEVERED. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF THIS PLACE, WE PRAY. LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL AMONG US. IN TIMES OF CONFLICT, CLOTHE US IN LOVE AND MOVE US TO FORGIVENESS. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

FOR YOUR HOLY, BELOVED, AND CHOSEN ONES OF EVERY TIME AND PLACE, WE GIVE THANKS. DRAW US ALL INTO EVERLASTING PRAISE AND JOY. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. GOD OF GRACE,

receive our prayer.

WE COMMEND THESE PRAYERS TO YOU, O GOD, TRUSTING YOUR GRACE MADE KNOWN TO ALL, THROUGH THE WORD MADE FLESH, JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD.

Amen.

*** The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

~The Meal~

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our Vanco option.

*** The Offertory Procession “What Child is This?”**

No. 40 stanza 3

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

* **The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU HAVE CALLED FORTH LIFE, IN WHICH YOU TAKE DELIGHT. THE TREES, THE FIELDS, AND THE SEAS SING FOR JOY. BLESS NOW THESE GIFTS, RECEIVED FROM YOUR BOUNTY, THAT WE MAY JOIN THE CHORUS OF CREATION TO TELL OF YOUR SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY.

Amen.

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

* **The Preface and Sanctus** (*music on page 68 of LBW*)

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **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 him thanks and praise.

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (*LBW page 69*)

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY ONE, THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE GIVER OF LIFE: BLESSED ARE YOU FOR THE BIRTH OF CREATION...BLESSED ARE YOU FOR YOUR SON JESUS, THE WORD MADE FLESH.

IN THE NIGHT IN WHICH HE WAS BETRAYED, OUR LORD JESUS TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

AGAIN, AFTER SUPPER, HE TOOK THE CUP, GAVE THANKS...DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

LET US PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF FAITH:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

WITH THIS BREAD AND CUP WE REMEMBER YOUR WORD DWELLING AMONG US, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. WE REMEMBER OUR NEW BIRTH IN HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. WE LOOK WITH HOPE FOR HIS COMING.

Come, Lord Jesus.

HOLY GOD, WE LONG FOR YOUR SPIRIT. COME AMONG US. BLESS THIS MEAL. MAY YOUR WORD TAKE FLESH IN US. AWAKEN YOUR PEOPLE. FILL US WITH YOUR LIGHT. BRING THE GIFT OF PEACE ON EARTH.

Come Holy Spirit.

ALL PRAISE AND GLORY ARE YOURS, HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, WORD OF GOD INCARNATE, POWER OF THE MOST HIGH, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER.

Amen.

* **The Lord's Prayer**

JESUS, REMEMBER US IN YOUR KINGDOM; AND TEACH US TO PRAY:

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

*** The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US, A SON GIVEN TO US. COME, RECEIVE THE GIFT OF JESUS.

*** The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God”** (*LBW page 72*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

*** The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.
Amen.

*** The Post Communion Canticle** (*music on page 72 of LBW*)

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev’ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: MERCIFUL GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR JESUS, WHO IS OUR HEAVENLY FOOD. STRENGTHENED BY THIS GOODNESS, SEND US FORTH TO ANNOUNCE YOUR PEACE, COMFORT THE AFFLICTED, AND SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem “How Quietly” – Raney

~The Sending~

*** The Blessing**

THE GOD OF LOVE, FATHER, † SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT, LAVISH YOU WITH GRACE, ILLUMINE YOUR PATH, AND INCREASE YOUR JOY, TODAY AND ALWAYS.

(Sung) **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

*** The Sending**

GO IN PEACE. THE WORD OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU RICHLY.

Thanks be to God.

*** The Sending Hymn**

“Go Tell it On the Mountain”

No. 70

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus’] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

January 5, 2025 readings are:

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalms 147:12-20
John 1:1-18