

# **ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - Saskatoon**

**First Sunday of Christmas – December 27, 2020**

## **Zion Contact Information:**

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 9:00am – 4:00pm

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## Order of Service

Welcome

**Confession and Absolution**

Prayer of the Day – **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Gathering Song:** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” – ELW #288

### **First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being 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 with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **Psalm 148**

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the LORD!

**Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Homily

**Hymn of the Day:** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" – ELW # 272

**Apostles' Creed**

Prayers of Intercession

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" – ELW # 294

Benediction

**Sending Song:** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" – ELW #290

**In Our Prayers:** Derwin Hall, Andrea Nostbakken, Nandari Swamy, Martin, Weldeyesus family, Mallory Jess, Wally Cubbon, Cecelia Jurgens, Vibes Paulsen, Neil Taylor, Vi Stalwick, Dale Stalwick, Gloria Hamp, Lena & their family, Adam, Betty McManus, Aaron Froese, Glenn Wood, Borgny Lokken, Samhara & Saraq, Brenda Smith, Robert Reid, The Jahnke Family, Slind Family, Arryn Hahn and family

**Zion Office Holidays Hours:** Please note, the office at Zion will be open Monday, December 28 and Tuesday, December 29. It will be closed December 30-January 3. Regular office hours will resume Monday, January 4.

## Announcements:

**Zion's Christmas Outreach 2020 - The Mitten Tree is set up in the narthex** and there is also a **basket in the narthex to collect items for Interval House again**. There will be printed lists there for you to take and a list below as well. Shopping is difficult for many folks right now so a monetary donation would be very much appreciated! **Please label your donation Social Outreach Fund**. If you have items you would like someone to pick up, please let one of us know. (Jackie 306-881-2888; Linda 306-683-8671; Lori 306-203-9383).

### **Women and children**

- all sizes
- clothing
- underwear and socks
- shoes, boots, slippers
- pyjamas
- mitts, gloves, toques

### **Toiletry items**

- body wash and bar soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- hair brushes

### **Other**

- ear buds
- toys
- charging cords and blocks
- kitchen aprons

**Gifts from the Heart – CLWR** – we have received a limited number of “Gifts from the Heart” catalogues. We have supported this over the past few years, and it is a focus this year as well. You choose a gift for a person on your list, like a pair of goats or a flock of chickens! You send the money to CLWR by calling (1-800-661-2597) or securely online ([www.clwr.org/GFTH](http://www.clwr.org/GFTH)). CLWR will then send a card to share with your loved one explaining the gift that was made in their honor. You may also give by using your regular Zion offering envelope; **please be sure to clearly mark “Gifts from the Heart”** on the envelope. Thank you for your gifts!

**There are also Food Bank Advent Calendars** available. The Food Bank is our focus during Advent. You may also choose to give a monetary donation instead of shopping; **please clearly mark your donation for the Food Bank**. Tins of food can be dropped off at the church or Food Bank directly. Thank you for your generosity!

**Communion-by-Appointment for Advent and Christmas**. Please contact Pastor Ron or the church office to schedule your Christmas communion.

**Offering envelopes** are in your mailboxes at the church! Let the office know when you need more printed.

**The Bible “Book of the Month” Club meets Tuesdays from 12:30-2:00 on Zoom**. Contact the office for the Zoom link.

**Join Pastor Ron for prayer 10:00 am Wednesday morning** by Zoom. Contact the church for the Zoom link.

There is an opportunity to take part in an **“eight session Stephen Ministries course called “Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts”**. If you are interested in participating, contact Kaylyn in the office.

**Committee Reports are due by December 31**. Please email them to the office as soon as possible.

**Offering contributions need to be in the white locked box by December 31** to be counted towards your 2020 offerings. The white locked box is accessible outside the office using the mail slot.

**“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven’s door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow’r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half-spent was the night.

This flow’r, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor  
the darkness ev’rywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens ev’ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,  
who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
who dost our weakness know:  
bring us at length, we pray,  
to the bright courts of heaven  
and into endless day.

**“In the Bleak Midwinter”**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wiseman I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him – I give him my heart.

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

*Refrain*  
*Go tell it on the mountain,*  
*over the hills and ev’rywhere;*  
*go tell it on the mountain*  
*that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light  
*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior’s birth.  
*Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.  
*Refrain*