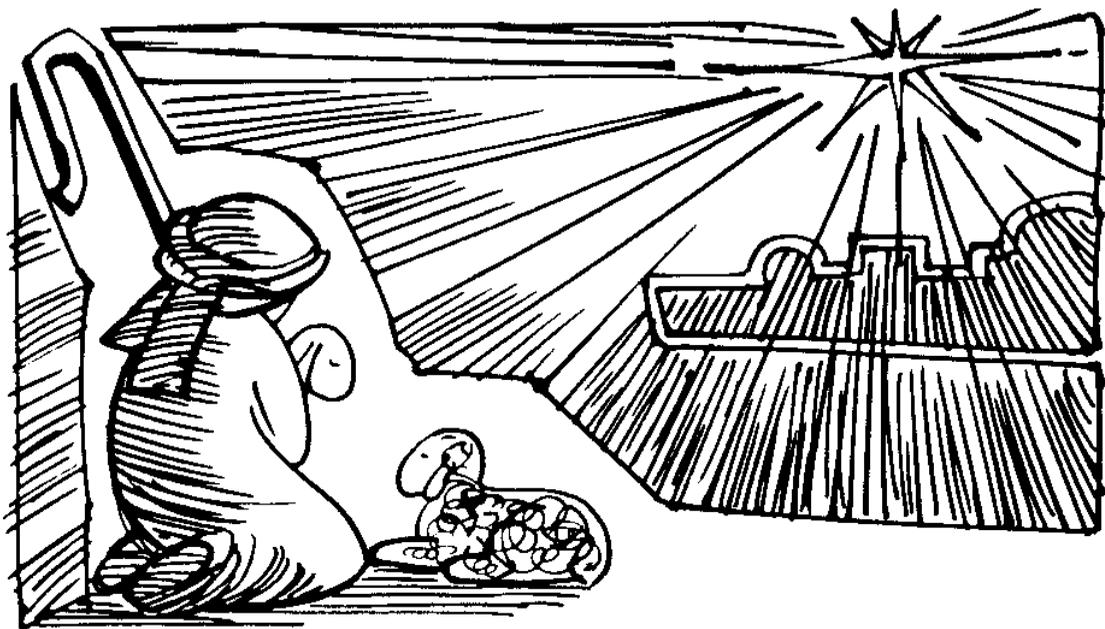


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

January 3, 2021



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required throughout the worship service.**

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewistownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
January 3, 2021 Second Sunday of Christmas

Introduction to the day

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

L Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.

We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

L People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love, ✝ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***GREETING**

L 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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God

L Glory to God

C **Glory to God, glory to God in the highest**

L Glory to God

C **Glory to God, glory to God , a peace to God's people on earth.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Let us pray.

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

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

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;

praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴God 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.**

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

***GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

L The holy gospel according to John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

1. *I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.*

Refrain

*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*CREED

L With the whole church let us confess our faith

**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 INTERCESSION**

L Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith.
With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather
us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all
our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Love Has Come*

*1. Love has come--a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*3. Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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**

L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

L Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

Please remain seated, Communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG: *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord*

1 *Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.*

3 *Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- L Let us pray.
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

SENDING

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

MINISTRY OF ZION

***BLESSING**

- L The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
- C **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

- L Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

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I want to Walk as a Child of the Light *Love Has Come*

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Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

Serving Us:
Pianist: Meryl McKenna
Ushers: Aaron & Caylee Aanenson
Lector: Lynn Franz
Communion Assistant: Lynn & Annie Franz, Falan Aanenson
Disciples: All the Baptized

Welcome! Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Kathie Bailey, Byron Swanby

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau, Marv Mathison

Social Concern of the Month: Pr. Bradn Buerkle. Pr. Buerkle has been in Russia for many years supporting and strengthening the Lutheran Church. If you would like to donate to his ministry, make you check out to Zion and note “Missionary” on the memo line.

We extend our **Christian sympathy** to Pat Ozment and family upon the death of Sarah on December 25th. A private service for Sarah was held at Zion on December 28th. Memorials for Sarah may be made to Saves, Inc., P O Box 404, Lewistown.

Week of 01/03 – 01/10/21

Mon	4:00pm	Bible Study Leaders with Pr. Lynne
	5:30pm	Caring Ministry
Wed	6:45am	Men’s Bible Study
	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch
	3:30pm	BLAST Game Day
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
	6:15pm	Stephen Ministry
Sun	9:30am	Worship

Roger Woltermann & Meryl McKenna, a Lay Pastoral Associates, have been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Serving on Staff:

Secretary: Falan Aanenson

Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz

Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson

Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker

Website: www.zionlewisownelca.com

Phone: 538-5082

E-Mail: zionelca@midrivers.com

YouTube: Zion Lutheran Church Lewistown MT.

Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church Lewistown