



On entering
the house,
they saw
the child
with Mary

MATTHEW 2:11

ZOAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

“AmaZed by God, Energized by Jesus,
a Grateful Zoar Gathers, Grows and Gives”

Winter 2024 Worship Folder

Saturday @ 6:00 pm

Sunday @ 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Pastor Paul Reichert and Pastor Melanie Forrey

WELCOME GUESTS!

Welcome to Zoar Lutheran Church! We are delighted and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Zoar is a church called to proclaim the Risen Christ through Word and Sacrament. We pray that you have a meaningful worship experience, and we look forward to seeing you again. You are invited to become a part of the ministry that is Zoar. Please sign the welcome pad so we may acknowledge your visit.

To reduce waste and increase sustainability, we will be reusing this worship folder during the fall season. The readings are printed in the weekly insert, and the hymn titles and numbers are also printed on the weekly insert and displayed on the hymn boards. Music and lyrics for all hymns can be found in the Red ELW Hymnals in your pew. Please return this worship folder at the end of today's service – thank you!

*Indicates an invitation to rise as you are able

Welcome and Prayer

***Gathering Hymn:** *see insert and/or hymn board*

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
Whose steadfast love is everlasting.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: God-with-us,

**People: 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.**

Leader: Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
✝ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

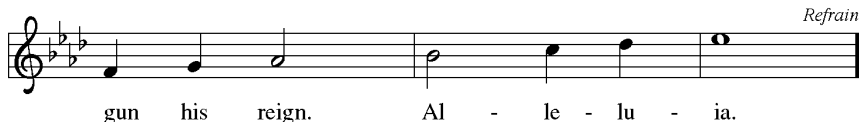
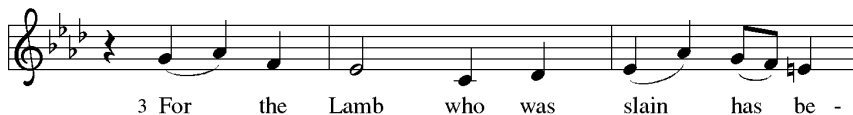
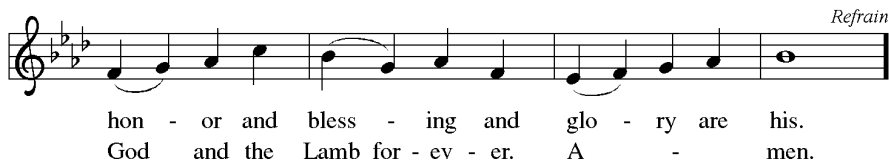
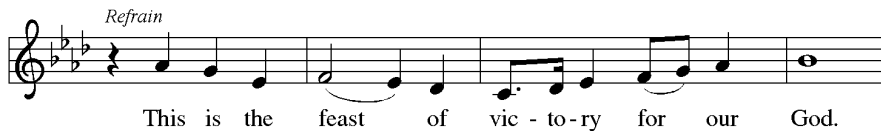
People: Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

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

People: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise





Prayer of the Day

Congregation may be seated.

Children's Message (11:00 am) *Following the children's message, all 3 year old - 4th graders are welcome to go downstairs for JAM time with **Miss Corryn**.*

First Reading: *see insert*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms: *see insert*

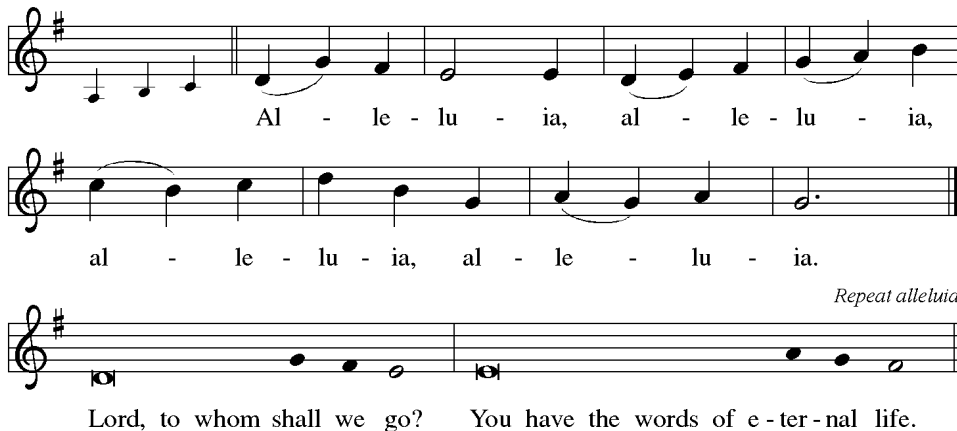
Second Reading: *see insert*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia



Gospel Reading: *see insert*

Leader: The Gospel according to....

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the conclusion of the Gospel:

Leader: The Gospel of Our Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *see insert and/or hymn board*

The 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

Leader: God of grace,

People: Receive our prayer.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Please greet one another with words of peace.

Congregation may be seated.

Announcements

Offering

Tithes and offerings are collected at this time.

*Please sign and pass the pew pads during the offering and
indicate whether you are receiving communion today.*

*Please fill out the pew pads with your name along with all who are present with you today. For
those who are visiting, please include your children's names and ages.*

***Offering Prayer**

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is our duty and delight.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

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;
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.

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.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Congregation may be seated.

Sharing of Communion

Please follow the guidance of the ushers, who will direct worshippers beginning with the back rows. All who believe in the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to share communion. In addition to red wine there is also a non-alcohol white grape juice available; in addition to wafers there is a gluten-free option available. Zoar's current practice for communing children is to invite those in fourth grade to attend a Communion Education class prior to receiving at the table. People of any age who are not receiving Communion are always offered a blessing when coming forward during this part of the worship service. If you would like your children to receive Communion sooner, please let a pastor know. All are welcome, for Jesus invites us.

Music During Communion

***Post Communion Blessing**

Prayer after Communion

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.

Blessing

Leader: The God of love,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

People: Amen.

Sending Hymn *see insert and/or hymn board*

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude