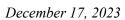
Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



Pastor John Henry

Third Sunday in Advent





Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.

Welcome to worship! May we find joy in worshiping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

"Infant Holy"

Sung by the Choir

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- 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.
- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.
- ...I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Entrance Psalm

Philippians 4:4-5



Rejoice in the Lord | always;*

again I will say, | Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*

The Lord | is at hand;

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie Spoken

P O Lord,

C have mercy upon us.

P O Christ,

C have mercy upon us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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.

First Lesson

1 Samuel 2:1-10

¹And Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the LORD;

my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies,

because I rejoice in your salvation.

²"There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you;

there is no rock like our God.

³Talk no more so very proudly,

let not arrogance come from your mouth;

for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,

but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;

he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap

to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail.

¹⁰The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

"Now Sing, We Now Rejoice"

Sung by the choir

Second Lesson

Philippians 4:4–8

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel Luke 1:39–56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Sermon Hymn In Thee Is Gladness

818

Sermon

Nicene Creed inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Prayers

Offering

Offertory for Advent

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with your spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB pg. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer inside the back cover of the hymnal

The Consecration

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Communion Hymns

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is	372
Joy to the World	387
Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord	352

Nunc Dimittis

LSB pg. 211 O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Thanksgiving & Benediction

- Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- \mathbf{C}
- The Lord be with you.
- And with your spirit.
- Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.
- The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give + you peace.
- C Amen.

Closing Hymn

My Soul Rejoices

933

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Thank you to the choir and Heidi Koeritz for sharing your time and talents with us this morning with special Christmas worship music.

Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School
Martin Luther High School, & the Calling Committee
All Schools and places of learning

St James

Baptism Birthdays: Chris Bartz, Warren Schultze

Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Marilyn Borkenhagen,

Marianne Hagen, Tom Koeritz, Sandy Kurseth

Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Sarah Wirth, Doug Bicknase, Teresa Montgomery,

Lynn Schwieger

Seminary Student: Peter Preus

Serving our Country: Ben Peymann, Dalton Fette, Kory Brown,

Jesse Peterson, Lili Bulfer

Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Lynn Schwieger, Caleb Roiger,

Marsha Peterson

Homebound: Dale Schwieger, Lenore Wendt, Norma Patsche,

Violet Lueth, Yonsey Karasek

Bulletins are emailed weekly. If you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact the office. **Bulletins can also be found on the website <u>silnorthrop.com</u>** or <u>zionfraser.com</u>. Contact the office if you have questions.

You can sponsor the bulletins (\$10 per congregation) or online broadcast (\$25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

Paul & Cindy Wolter are sponsoring the bulletins for the month of December, giving thanks to our Lord in as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on December 4th. May God continue to bless your marriage.

Congratulations to Eldean & Marilyn Maschoff who were wed Saturday at Zion. May God bless your lives together.

LYF Egg fundraiser continues. Eggs will be available at SJL after most services or you can call/text Lynn Becker at 230-2700 to arrange a pick up from the farm. 100% of proceeds goes to LYF for expenses and future trips. Please keep returning cartons and leave in the SJL narthex.



- Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Cancelled your landline? Please contact the office with your updated contact information.
 - **Annual Reports** will be due soon. In order to have them ready for the Annual Voter's Meetings in January please submit your reports to the office no later than Wednesday January 3rd. Thank you!
- **2024 Contribution Envelopes** are available in the Narthex. **Please do not use until January.**
- **○** DEADLINE for January newsletter is December 26th.

THANK YOU for all the generous donations of beautiful and delicious Christmas cookies and candies. Also a big thank you for all those who volunteered to help set-up, clean-up, and work at the event.

Are you in need of help with meals? **St James Lutheran Stewardship Committee** is starting a meal-train for SJL members who wish to have some help with meals for a short time. This could be due to an illness, a hospital stay, a birth of a child, a death in the family, or for any other reason. Contact Jody Uttech (507-236-6456) if you wish to have a meal-train started for you and/or your family. Also, if you are willing to help by furnishing a meal for a meal-train family when it works with your schedule, please let Jody know.

Sunday School Christmas Program Practice: SJL will practice after Sunday School until 11:30. Zion will practice for one hour after church.



- Heaven's Table Food Shelf collection of nonperishable food items and personal care items such as shampoo, soap, body wash, toothpaste, etc., now through December 17th. If you would like to contribute any of these items there is a table in the narthex at both churches for your donations. Thank you.
- Orphan Grain Train, now through December 17th. All sizes, styles, colors welcomed. There is a basket at the back of church for your donations. Thank you.

Prayers are requested during the search for a new principal at MLHS. The committee is currently in the interview process with potential candidates. We pray for the committee and for the candidates. We pray that the transition will be a blessing to everyone involved and God's will be done, all to His Glory.



ADVENT III: Wednesday December 20th @ Zion

LYF will be serving supper from 6-6:45PM
Cheesy Ham on bun, Baked Beans,
Chips, Bars and Beverages
7:00pm Advent Vespers Worship

Donations for Christmas Bags on Christmas Eve can be given to an Elder at either church or placed into the offering plate earmarked "Christmas Bags". Thank you!

SJL Special Christmas Birthday Offering. The offering at the Children's service on Christmas Eve is an opportunity to thank God for the many years He has blessed you. Consider a thank you gift of one dollar (\$1.00) for every year our Lord has graciously bestowed upon you.

LYF will once again be picking up live Christmas trees to raise funds for summer activities. Call/text Larissa Hagen (236-2780) to schedule a pick-up time. They will be having a burning party after the Epiphany service on Jan 5th, everyone is invited to join in the fun!



Weather Related Announcements will again be available on SJL Facebook page, or on KEYC (TV, website, Facebook page). If you are interested, KEYC has an option for notifications for any organization you chose. Download the KEYC News Now app on your phone, go to Settings and choose Closings, then scroll down to St James Lutheran Church - Northrop or Zion/Fraser Lutheran - Fairmont.

Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; silnorthop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.



SJL Online Giving



Those Serving our Lord				
	Greeters	Acolyte		
SJL 12-17	Bryan Simmering & Judi Polzin			
12-24	Web & Dar Quade 8:30am	Hailey Simpson		
	Doug & Laurie Quinn 7pm			
12-25	Greg & Deb Raabe 8:30am			
12-31	Dave & Kris Rode 8:30am			
Zion 12-17	Kelsey Murphy & Sarah Wirth	James Steuber		
12-20	Dennis & Debbie Neitzke 7pm			
12-24	Joe & Amy Nelson 10am	Luke Henry		
	Brent & Jennie Oberdieck 4pm			
	Lon & Marilyn Oelke 10pm			
12-31	Evan & Ashlee Oberdieck 10am	Alex Pittman		



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class.

- **Zion**: 8:45am, Narthex. Please join us as we study topics in The Lutheran Witness. Please bring your Lutheran Witness magazine if possible. Extra copies are available.
- **SJL:** 9:45am, Fellowship Hall. We are using the Focus on the Family video series "That the World May Know".

Friday Morning Bible Study at 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL.



Sundays on KSUM 1370AM - 9 am

Dec 17 The Christmas Hymn "O Come All Ye Faithful" - Pastor Will Weedon

Dec 24 The First Christmas - Dr. Paul Maier

Dec 31 The Christmas Hymn: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" - Dr. Arthur Just



THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY: Sundays on KSUM 1370AM- 11 am

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"Life After Landing" What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

"I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Dec 17 - 25, 2023 CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - Noon

Office phone: 436-5289 **Pastor phone:** 219-713-1604

Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com Website: sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

Sunday Cantata Sunday

Divine Worship (SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
Sunday School (Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM
SS Program Practice (SJ) 10:30-11:30, (Z) 11:15-12:15 PM
NFL (SJ) 7:00 PM

NFL (SJ) 7:00 PM
Chapel (SJ) 8:40 AM
Supper (LYF) (Z) 6:00 PM

Advent III Vespers (Z) 7:00 PM

Sunday Christmas Eve

Tuesday

Wednesday

Christmas Eve
Divine Worship
Sunday School
SS Program Practice
Zion Sunday School Program
SJL Sunday School Program
Joint Candlelight Service

(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM
(Z) 8:45 AM
(Z) 11:15-12:15 PM
(Z) 4:00 PM
(SJ) 7:00 PM

Monday Christmas Day

Joint Christmas Day Divine Worship (SJ) 8:30 AM

Wednesday Dec. 6, 2023			
Jt Attendance	60		



Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion		Dec 10, 2023	
Attendance	113 (HC 79)	Home	\$4,413.90
Loose Plate	\$85.00	Missions	\$275.00
SJLS	\$115.00	Christmas Bags	\$100.00
Zion Repairs	\$100.00	Advent I-MLHS	\$1,056.00

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James		Dec 10, 2023	
Attendance	101 (HC 85)	Home	\$2,219.00
Loose Plate	\$263.00	Missions	\$60.00
Online	\$371.45	Tuition	\$100.00
SJLS Misc	\$465.00	MLHS	\$200.00
Tuition Angel	\$200.00	Advent I-MLHS	\$200.00