

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

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*Rooted in Faith \* Growing in Spirit \* Reaching Out to Those in Need*  
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8:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent – Morning Prayer December 24, 2017

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

PRELUDE "Christmas Carols at the Organ" John Innes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Candle of Love

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"* (Psalm 89:1-4)

L: New life is coming.

C: We can count it in hours now.

L: God is breaking through.

C: God's Word will change the world.

L: We will all be changed by the Language of Love.

C: The covenant has come down through the generations.

L: The love of God is never-ending.

C: We give thanks for God's faithfulness.

L: Today we light the candle of Love.

All: We give thanks for God's steadfast Love.

(please stand)

GATHERING SONG "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" ELW #265

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen** *(please be seated)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC "The Coventry Carol w/Away in A Manger" Cindy Berry
Sonya Kempf - Piano**

PSALM (Sung) Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

¹Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

³"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

⁴**I will establish your | line forever,
and preserve your throne for all | generations.'"**

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.

²⁰**I have found Da- | vid my servant;
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.**

²¹My hand will | hold him fast
and my arm will | make him strong.

²²**No enemy | shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked | bring him down.**

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.
Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light. **Amen**

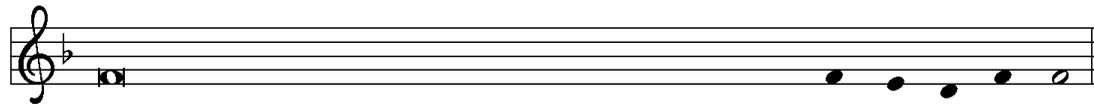
BLESSING



Let us bless the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

SENDING HYMN **“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”** **ELW #251**

POSTLUDE **“Angels We Have Heard on High”** **French Carol**

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LEADING OUR WORSHIP:

Preaching: Pastor Marcia Sylvester
Presiding: Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Organist: Sonya Kempf
Deacon: Marcie Andersh
Acolyte: Masyn Schutter
Power Point: Wanda Wagemann
Altar Guild Co-Chairs: Lois Chapin – Kari Harrison
Sound System: Steve Ottenbacher
Van Driver: John Desens
Counters: Gladys Melcher – Elsie Geffre
Coffee Hosts: Gladys Voegele – Carol Knispel
Ushers: Ron Kost, Rick, Deb, Eric & Chris Weber

SECOND READING**Romans 16:25-27**

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

GOSPEL**Luke 1:26-38**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.