

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, FERNDALE
10:30AM, DECEMBER 28, 2025

Prelude

Scott Schroeder

Processional Hymn

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”

Hymnal 288

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say; Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now,
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Pastor: Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy.

People: To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

Confession and Forgiveness

Assistant: In Jesus Christ our Savior the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet, we cling to the glories of the present age - worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yolk we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

Pastor: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**
Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to God's people on earth.**

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of God be with you all. **And also with you!**

At Zion we share the ASL/universal sign for peace, or other non-physical contact to greet one another.

Praise Hymn

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

Hymn 297

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child". It is written for a piano accompaniment, featuring a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system includes the lyrics "Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child." The second system includes "Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and". The third system includes "mild; new life, new hope the child will bring." The fourth system includes "Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: 'Glo - ry, glo - ry,". The fifth system includes "glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!". The score concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry," let the heav - ens ring!

Prayer of the Day

Assistant: O God, **you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 148

¹ Praise God!

Praise God from the heavens;
praise in the heights!

² **Praise God, all the angels;
praise God, all the host!**

³ Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

⁴ **Praise God, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!**

⁵ Let them praise the name of our God,
who commanded and they were created.

⁶ **God established them forever and ever;
and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

⁷ Praise God from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling the command!**

⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ **Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

¹¹ Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² **Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

¹³ Let them praise the name of God,
for God's name alone is exalted;

God's glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **God has raised up a horn for the people,
praise for all the faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to the One.
Praise God!**

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³ And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

(Hymn 172)

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" (Hymn 172). The score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) and is set in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#) on the treble clef. The time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily carried by the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words appearing in a larger font for emphasis. The score consists of three systems of staves. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The hymn concludes with a final chord in the key of D major.

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Matthew 2:13-23

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” ¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Living One. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation

Special Music

“The Wexford Carol”

Grace Ward

Sermon

Pastor Matthew Bode

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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,

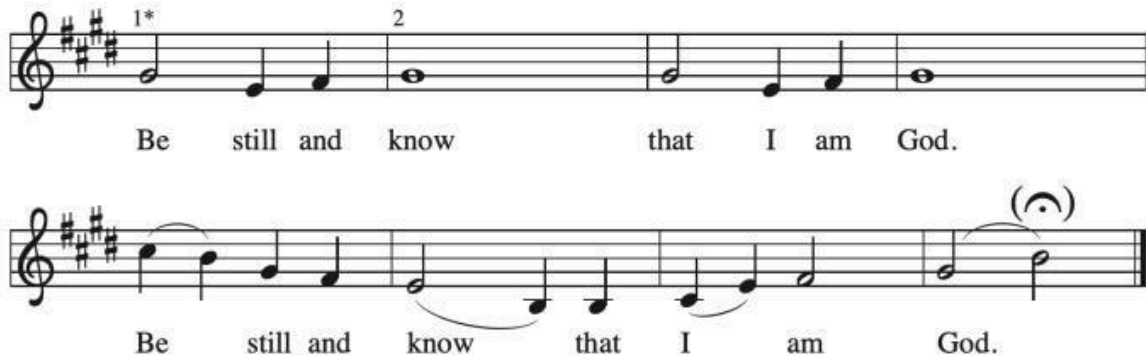
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Assistant: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Be Still and Know

(ACS 1083)



God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Be Still and Know

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for those on our hearts that we bring to you today... Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Be Still and Know

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Receive our prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

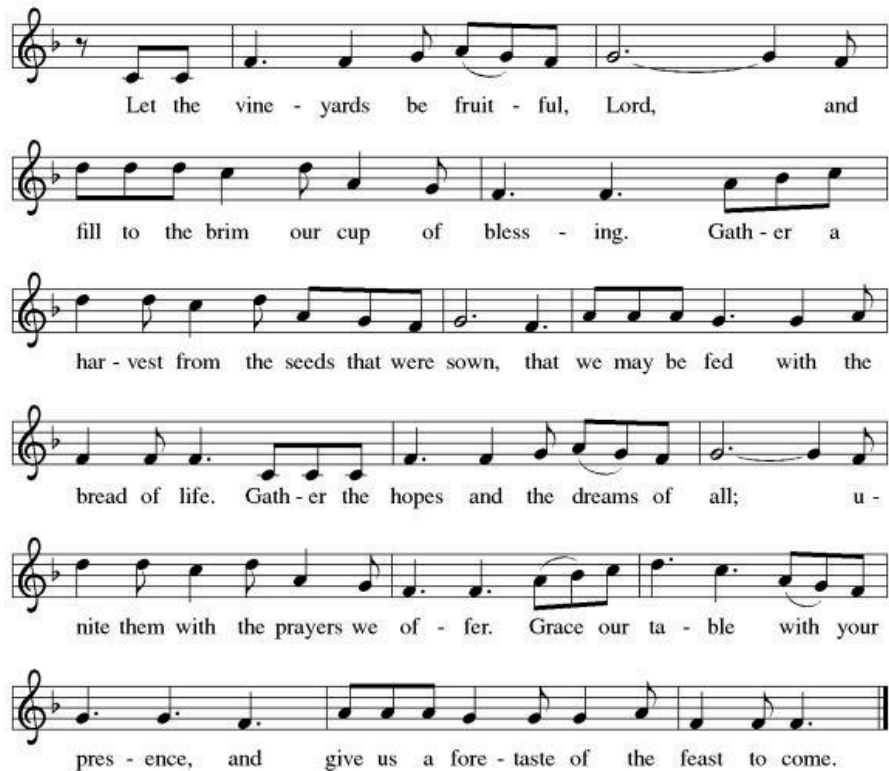
Be Still and Know

Pastor: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Offertory

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

(Hymn 183)



Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray, **We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made - forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace that you have given - a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.**

Ways to give -

- Venmo @ZionFerndale (confirmation code 7498)
- Vanco mobile app (code VHLXGH)
- www.zionlutheranmi.org
- Offering plate located in the middle of the center aisle
- Mail to church mailing address

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is good to give you thanks, O God, source of abundant life; through Jesus Christ your eternal Word

who creates all things by the working of your Spirit. For he is the reflection of your glory, the very imprint of your being. In him you have become one with us that we might become one with you. And so we raise our voices with saints and angels and all creation in joyful praise to you singing:

(ELW 193)

The image displays a musical score for a hymn, consisting of five systems of music. Each system includes a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,'. The second system continues with 'heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the'. The third system has 'high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the'. The fourth system has 'name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the'. The fifth system concludes with 'high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is primarily in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

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. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and wondrous God, long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways. And in these last days you have spoken to us in your Word made flesh, Jesus, who proclaimed your dream of peace. He gave himself for our weary world, accepting death so that we might live, and held our darkness deep within until through cross and grave and empty tomb he set us free for love.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Savior Christ 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.

Recalling his death and resurrection, and longing for his coming in glory we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Pour out your Spirit upon us that we might be a people of grace and truth, bearing good news of joy in every season.

And bring us at the last with Mary and Joseph and all your saints to that vision of eternal splendor for which you have created us. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. **Amen**

Holy One, remember us in your reign and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

Distribution

Zion welcomes and encourages those of all faith backgrounds to communion. We believe that the death and resurrection of Christ makes us all worthy and needing of the sacrament regardless of background, age or any other factor.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Hymn 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Hymn 272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air; dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where, True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know; bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Now may this the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace, now and forever. **Amen.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Benediction

Pastor: Go forth to sing and bless God's name.

People: Glory to God in the highest!

For great is our God, and greatly to be praised!

Alleluia! Praise our God!

God looks upon you with favor and grants you peace.

Dismissal

Assistant: Go in the peace of Christ and be living grace. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Scott Schroeder

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assistant Minister: Randi Hamilton

Lector: Chris Hamilton

Cantor: Joyce Stearns-Thompson

Cross Bearer: Liam Hamilton

Staff:

The Rev. Matthew Bode, Pastor

Office Manager: Stacey Jamison

Custodian: Anthony Bailey

Chancel Choir Director: Roger Smith

Organist: Scott Schroeder

Juniors Music Ministry: Stacey Jamison

Tech Ministry: George Stuteville

Zion Council/Lay Leadership:

Emily Corey, President

Hunter Hicks, Vice President

Cecelia Mac-Smith, Secretary

Dagmar Jones, Treasurer

Ann McChesney

Natalie Melnick

Matt Northcott

Jackie Oliver

Martha Struck

Michael Weiszbrod