

Isaiah 35 (ESV)

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an

example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Matthew 11:2-15 (ESV)

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.



THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday in Advent

Zion Lutheran Church, 17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626
www.zionhemlock.org ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ **In the Name of Jesus** ✠

As We Gather ~ *The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross.* Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

ORDER OF SERVICE Service of Prayer and Preaching	260
OPENING HYMN “When All the World was Cursed”	346
HYMN “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”	352
SERMON HYMN “Come, Thou precious Ransom, Come!”	350
SERMON “Patience NOW!”	James 5:7-11
HYMN “A Great and Mighty Wonder”	383
CLOSING HYMN “God Loves Me Dearly”	392

Pastor	Larry Warsinski
Organist	Carolyn Laurenz
Elder/Reader	Dick Buemer
A/V	Mark Richardson
Ushers	Dale Rohde and Kevin Ross
Altar Guild	Irene Kruth

Our Measure of Love and Gifts

Attendance last week – 61 Midweek Advent 16 Needed for The Lord’s Work at Zion \$4,316 ~ Received for the Lord’s Work \$4,104; Capital Projects \$150; God’s Helping Hands \$1,740.

Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday: December 14 – Sally Byron, Marc Pinet, Blake Wietfeldt; December 15- Gilbert Coty, Myrna Pruitt (her 85th); December 18- Madison Kumar; December 20- Nicole Miller.

Today’s Memory Verse ~ “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.” Zephaniah 3:17

Voters’ Meeting to place a pastoral call will be held in the church following the service. All confirmed members 18 and older are encouraged to attend.

Midweek Advent Services will be held on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 7:00 pm with Communion. Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 am. New Year’s Eve Worship at 6:00 pm with Communion.

God’s Helping Hands will not be open on December 27, the fourth Saturday. We thank all our volunteers who need a break! Please pass the word to those who may need to know.

Shut In List ~ An address list of our homebound people is available in the narthex if you would like to send Christmas cards to them. They would greatly appreciate the thought.

Recycle your Christmas lights ~ Have old Christmas lights? Don’t throw them away! Indoor/outdoor string lights can be dropped off at the church office or the Richland Township office in Hemlock through January 15, 2026. Contact Mid Michigan Waste Authority with any questions at 989-781-9555.