

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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December 3, 2017 10:45 am First Sunday in Advent

INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – The Candle of Hope

*Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you. (Psalm 33:20-22)*

L: Something's coming.

C: We're waiting. We're eager.

L: It's more than presents.

C: It's more than lights.

L: We open the Book of Hope and read the promise.

C: God will be with us.

L: Our hearts are glad; we trust God's holy name.

C: God's never-ending love surrounds us.

L: Today we light the candle of Hope.

All: Our hope is in the Lord.

OPENING SONG

"Here I Am To Worship" (please stand)

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God,
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with You.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God,
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God,
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God,
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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How good are we at watching for signs of God's presence in the world, in our lives, or in our homes?

God of Advent, forgive us when we pay more attention to satisfying our own needs, than seeking you and your will for our lives –

For being more interested in possessing the material things of life, rather than your spiritual gifts.

Turn our lives around so that we are looking in the right direction - towards you. Only then will we be able to recognize the signs of your presence in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we have been enriched in every way -in everything we say and in everything we know. Through God's grace, we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait with anticipation for Jesus to be revealed. He is the one who will keep us strong to the end, so that we shall be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.(based on 1Cor.1:5-8)

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen *(please be seated)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

**“He Came Down”
Zion Adult Choir**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

FIRST READING Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,**

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Pew Bible NT pg. 173

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Here ends the reading.

ALLELUIA

“Hallelujah, Hear Our Praises” *(please stand)*

From the mountains to the valley

Hear our praises rise to You.

From the heavens to the nations,

Hear the singing fill the air.

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

O God, the greatest gift Creation ever received, your Son, came during this season of anticipation. Throughout these weeks of Advent, renew our spirit of generosity and help us to reveal the hope, peace, love, and joy that became incarnate in the Christ. May the gifts we offer today give witness to you as Savior of the world. We offer them and our lives to you, O God, in the name of the Living One: Jesus the Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

THE 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**

SENDING

Now go and live your lives this week blessed by the knowledge that you are shaped by the hand of God, enriched by the grace of Jesus Christ kept alert by the power of the Holy Spirit.

CLOSING SONG

“You Shine”

Why should I fear man When You made the heavens.
Why should I be afraid When You put the stars in place.
Why should I lose heart When I know how great You are.
Why should I give up When Your plans are full of love.

In this world we will have trouble.
But You have overcome the world.

You shine brighter than the brightest star.
Your love, purer than the purest heart.
You shine, filling us with courage and strength

To follow You. Why should I fear man
When You made the heavens. Why should I be afraid
When You put the stars in place. Why should I lose heart
When I know how great You are. Why should I give up
When Your plans are full of love.

In this world we will have trouble.
But You have overcome the world.

You shine brighter than the brightest star.
Your love, purer than the purest heart.
You shine, filling us with courage and strength
To follow You.

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ADVENT 2017



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