

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
 First Sunday of Advent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
 Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
 Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hal Hopson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the Son who comes to show mercy, and the Holy Spirit who grants us faith.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: The Candle of Hope

Psalm 33:20 – We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Prayer: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection.

To you, O God,
we lift up our souls. You know us through and through. We confess our sins to you, known and unknown; things we have done, and things we have failed to do. Remember not our sins; remember us according to your steadfast love. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us by your Word of truth. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism and hear again the promise God has made to you. By the command and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You belong to Christ, who came into the world and will come again. The reign of God is near!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The Potter's Hands

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Savior,
I know for sure all of my days are
Held in Your hand crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me, into your presence
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life
Through Your eyes.
I'm captured by Your holy calling,
Set me apart, I know Your drawing,
Me to Yourself, Lead me, Lord, I pray.

Take me, mold me
Use me, fill me.
I give my life to the Potter's Hand.
Call me, guide me
Lead me, walk beside me.
I give my life to the Potter's Hand.

You gently call me, into your presence
 Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit
 Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life
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Take me, mold me
 Use me, fill me.
 I give my life to the Potter's Hand.
 Call me, guide me
 Lead me, walk beside me.
 I give my life to the Potter's Hand.

GREETING

Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! May the grace of the promised Messiah, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Jesus, Son of God, you have promised to return at a time that no one knows. Keep us watchful in prayer and strong in faith as we wait for you to come. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastor Tim Sersen

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
 so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
 and the fire causes water to boil—
 to make your name known to your adversaries,
 so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

(read responsively)

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 a-way 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

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Zach Anderson, cantor

Sing to God, all praises bring
 Praise the Christ, our coming king
 And the Holy Spirit praise
 To the Trinity we raise.
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"In those days, after that suffering,
 the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and
 glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds,
 from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Sersen

SONG OF THE DAY

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah, declaring the Word of the Lord,
And these are the days of your servant Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,
And we are a voice in the desert crying, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, in the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh,
And these are the days of your servant David, rebuilding the temple of praise.
And these are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world.
And we are the laborers in the vineyard, declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold He comes, riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun, at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, in the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah
 There's no God like Jehovah

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APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 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,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the Church, the world, and all creation.

Prayer response: Come, Lord Jesus. **Hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving that has continued during this time! Ministry at this time depends on regular giving. If you would like to give online now, you can use this QR code scanner on your smart phone to be directed to the Giving page on our website. You can also mail your offerings in to the church.



OFFERING SONG

Change My Heart

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Lord, we bring before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Teach us patience and hope as we care for those in need with your mercy and forgiveness until the coming of your Son. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

BENEDICTION

May God direct your ways in peace,

make you abound in love for one another and for all,

and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

How Great is Our God

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;

Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide;

And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God!

Sing with me, how great is our God!

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;

Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.

The Godhead, Three In One, Father, Spirit, Son;

The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God!

Sing with me, how great is our God!

And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing how great is our God.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing how great is our God.

How great is our God!
Sing with me, how great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God.
How great, how great is our God.

SENDING WORDS

The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Lost in the Night

Stephen Gabrielsen

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger, presiding
Pastor Tim Sersen, preaching
Pastoral Assistant Saundra Anderson, lector
Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist
Kara Pies, vocalist
Sonya Kempf, prelude and postlude