

## **GATHERING**

✠ *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.* ✠

### **PRELUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Lani Smith

### **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 Love**

**Isaiah 54:10** - For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

**Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end.**

**Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(please stand)*

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.** *(please be seated)*

### **GATHERING HYMN**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW#265

*Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.*

- 1      The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2      "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3      Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Come to us with your Holy Spirit,  
so that we receive your saving word and rejoice in you, our Savior. For you live and  
reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

✠ God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song. ✠

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

(read responsively)

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,**  
**from generation to generation.**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**  
**to remember the promise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel  
of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul  
proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all  
nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now 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 <sup>26</sup>but 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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to  
whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(please stand)

(TUNE: Angels We Have Heard on High)

*Acclamation sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.*

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 Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

### Luke 1:26-38

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

## SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* ELW #251

*Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.*

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.
- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**      *(please stand)*

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.** *(please be seated)*

## **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.**

God of all salvation, hear the prayers we make this day, in the name of the one whose coming is certain and whose day is near—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offering will not be taken during worship; a basket is available in the back of the sanctuary to drop off today's offering. As we continue to worship through the gift of radio and internet, we encourage you to consider giving a gift online at [zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving) or by mail as you are able. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.*



## **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 SUPPER**

✠ *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.* ✠

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**      *(please stand)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**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.** *(please be seated)*

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God fills the hungry with good things—  
the very body and blood of Christ for you.

**Let us come with joy to the feast.**

**BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the bread and wine with  
your body and blood, promising new life and salvation. Strengthened at your  
table, send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming  
among us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.** *(please be seated)*

**SENDING HYMN**

*Joy to the World* ELW#267

*Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4     He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**SENDING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*The King Shall Come*

Janet Linker

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Advent candle lighting liturgy by Rev. Matthew Kozlowski.

# Zion Lutheran Church

*Rooted in Faith ✕ Growing in Spirit ✕ Reaching Out to Those in Need*

**Erin Heidelberger, Pastor**  
**Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor**

**1732 S Main Street**  
**Aberdeen, SD 57401**  
**605-225-6755**

**December 20, 2020**

**8:30 AM**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



*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.”*