

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

All Earth Is Hopeful

David Cherwien

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 Peace

John 14:27 – [Jesus said]: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Prayer: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts and peace for our souls. Give us your peace—peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. 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)*

OPENING HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW #266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

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

Merciful God, you sent your messengers to preach repentance and prepare the way
for our salvation. Turn us away from our sins, so that we greet our coming redeemer,
Jesus Christ, with joy. For he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM **Psalm 85**

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

Refrain

Lord, let us see your kindness,
And grant us your salvation.

1 I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
He speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
And his glory will dwell in our land. *Refrain*

2 Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
Justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
And justice look down from heaven. *Refrain*

3 Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
And our earth shall yield its increase.
Justice will march before him,
And guide his steps on the way. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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 Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ. *(please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264

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

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

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 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 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* **ELW #256**

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

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

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

POSTLUDE *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* **David Lasky**

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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

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December 6, 2020

8:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent



John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.