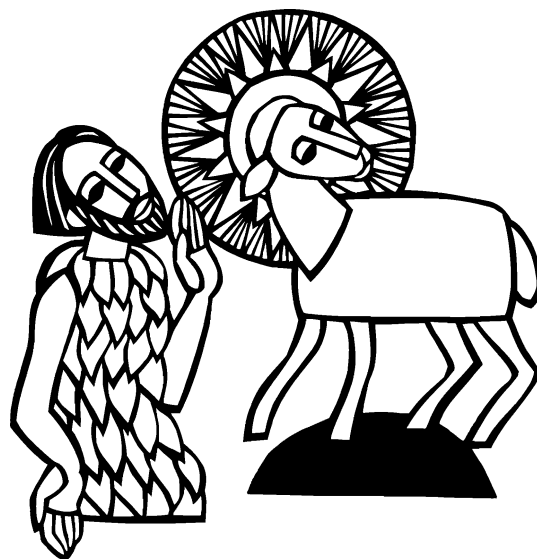


Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
 Third Sunday of Advent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
 Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
 Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

PRELUDE

People, Look East

Besancon

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 Joy

Isaiah 55:12 – You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. **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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



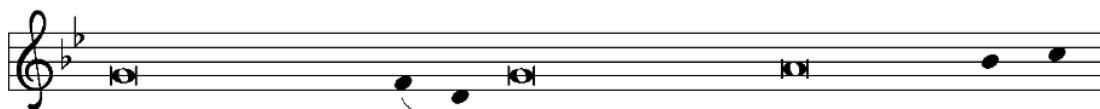
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



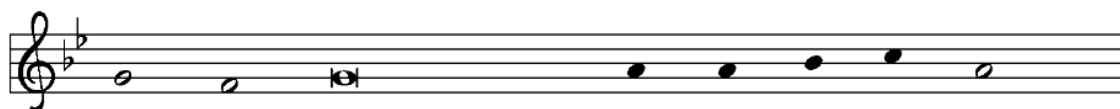
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

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.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

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

PSALM

Psalm 126

Refrain

The Lord has done great things for us;
 We are filled with joy.

1 When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
 We thought we were dreaming.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
 On our tongues, songs of joy. *Refrain*

2 Then the nations themselves said,
 "What great deeds the Lord worked for them!"
 What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
 Indeed, we were glad. *Refrain*

3 Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
 as streams in the south.
 Those who are sowing in tears
 Will sing when they reap. *Refrain*

4 They go out, they go out, full of tears,
 Bearing seed for the sowing;
 They come back, they come back with a song,
 Bearing their sheaves. *Refrain*

SECOND READING*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONTUNE: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

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 John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberber

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
vs. 1, 4, 6, 7

ELW #257

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

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.**

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

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

Amazing Grace

played by Zoe Kempf

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, 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.

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 HYMN

Hark! The Glad Sound

ELW# 239

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
 the Savior promised long;
 let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
 and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
 in Satan's bondage held.
 The gates of brass before him burst,
 the iron fetters yield.

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

SENDING WORDS

The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

And the Glory of the Lord

Handel

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

Nancy Schmidt, lector

Sue Gates, accompanist

Stephanie Hawkinson, song leader