

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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."

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

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

Prepare Ye the Way

Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.

Yeshua, You reign on high, You reign on high.
Almighty God your love is like no other.
Yeshua, You reign on high, You reign on high.
Almighty God your love is like no other.

Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.

Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the Way, prepare ye the Way of the Lord.

Yeshua, You reign on high, You reign on high.
Almighty God your love is like no other.
Yeshua, You reign on high, You reign on high.
Almighty God your love is like no other.

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.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

(read responsively)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the 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.

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to 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

TUNE: *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!

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.

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

SONG OF THE DAY*Messiah*

Someone's shouting from the desert. Someone's shouting from the sea.
Someone's shouting from the mountain. Someone's shouting from the valley.
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.

Someone's shouting from the city. I am young, I am cold.
Someone's shouting from the country. I am lonely, I am old.
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.

Someone's shouting I am broken. Someone's shouting make me whole.
Someone's shouting come and change me. Someone's shouting save my soul.
Messiah, come and be our King. Messiah, come and be our King.

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

What Can I Give Him?

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give him a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
But what can I give him? Give him my heart!

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give him a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
But what can I give him? Give him my heart!

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

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King.

His love endures forever.

For He is good, He is above all things.

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm,

His love endures forever.

For the life that's been reborn,

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.

Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,

Forever God is strong.

Forever God is with us,

Forever, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun

His love endures forever.

And by the grace of God we will carry on.

His love endures forever.

Sing praise, sing praise.
Sing praise, sing praise.

Forever God is faithful,
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
Forever, forever.

Forever God is faithful,
Forever God is strong.
Forever God is with us,
Forever, forever.

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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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

Sonya Kempf & Sue Gates, prelude and postlude

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Stacy Geffre, vocalist

Kara Pies, vocalist