

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

PRELUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful

Cindy Berry

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 One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
 the Power of the Most High, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gathered in the name of Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence for reflection.

Gracious God,
 in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our sin against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may trust the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

People of God, I bring you good news of great joy: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord! For his sake God forgives you all your sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Agnus Dei

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
 Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
 Alleluia! Holy, Holy are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
 For You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.
 Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, Amen!

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
 Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
 Alleluia! Holy, Holy are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
 For You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.
 Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, amen!

GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.

May the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
 Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through
 Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Jeremiah is primarily concerned with Judah, yet these verses are a lament on the defeat and exile of the Northern Kingdom. The oldest tradition located the tomb of Rachel, mother of Joseph and Benjamin, in Ramah, north of Jerusalem. The later tradition followed by the author of Matthew placed it near Bethlehem.

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,
says the LORD:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷there is hope for your future,

says the LORD:
your children shall come back to their own country.

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

PSALM

Psalm 148

(read responsively)

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²young men and maidens,
old and young together.

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu - ia, I am the light of the world.

Those who fol - low me will not walk in dark - ness.

Those who fol - low me will have the light of life.

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

GOSPEL*Matthew 2:13-18*

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Steiner, Associate to the Bishop, SD Synod

SONG OF THE DAY*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Israel this blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn,
The which His Mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

Fear not then, said the Angel, Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy.

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dwelling in the good news of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church,
the world, and all in need.

Prayer response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all
for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **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

Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth, they traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven
And falling on their knees they bow before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due
O Lord, I bring an offering to you

The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love
There is no shadow in your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy Lord, I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due
O Lord, I bring an offering to you

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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 Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its 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.

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.

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.

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

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

What Child is This?

Jerry Ray

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger, presiding

Reverend Jonathan Steiner, preaching

Pastoral Assistant Saundra Anderson

Mike Bretsch, lector

Sue Gates, prelude and postlude

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Stacy Geffre, vocalist

Kara Pies, vocalist