

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

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

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

More Love, More Power

More love, more power, more of You in my life.
More love, more power, more of You in my life.

And I will worship You with all of my heart.
And I will worship You with all of mind.
And I will worship You with all of my strength;
You are my Lord, You are my Lord.

More love, more power, more of You in my life.
More love, more power, more of You in my life.

And I will seek Your face with all of my heart.
And I will seek Your face with all of my mind.
And I will seek Your face with all of my strength;
You are my Lord, You are my Lord.

More love, more power, more of You in my life.
More love, more power, more of You in my life.

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 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 85:1-2, 8-13

(read responsively)

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

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*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!

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.

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

SONG OF THE DAY

Prepare the Way

Prepare the way, make straight the path for Him.
Let the King of Glory enter in.
Let the King of Glory enter in.
Who is this King of Glory.

The Lord strong and mighty;
The Lord mighty to save.
The earth is full of His glory;
Creation calls prepare the way.
His love endureth forever;
His power is without an end;
His strength is victory's treasure
Let all who call his name prepare the way.

Prepare the way, make straight the path for Him
Let the King of Glory enter in;
Let the King of Glory enter in;
Who is this King of Glory

The Lord strong and mighty;
The Lord mighty to save.
The earth is full of His glory;
Creation calls prepare the way.
His love endureth forever;
His power is without an end;
His strength is victory's treasure
Let all who call his name prepare the way.

The Lord strong and mighty;
 The Lord mighty to save.
 The earth is full of His glory;
 Creation calls prepare the way.
 His love endureth forever;
 His power is without an end;
 His strength is victory's treasure
 Let all who call his name prepare the way.

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

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;

Let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

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

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Our God, You reign forever.
 Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God,
 The everlasting God,
 You do not faint,
 You won't grow weary.
 You're the defender of the weak,
 You comfort those in need
 You lift us up on wings, like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Our God, You reign forever.
 Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God,
 The everlasting God,
 You do not faint,
 You won't grow weary.
 You're the defender of the weak,
 You comfort those in need
 You lift us up on wings, like eagles.

You are the everlasting God,
 The everlasting God,
 You do not faint,
 You won't grow weary.
 You're the defender of the weak,
 You comfort those in need
 You lift us up on wings, like eagles.

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger
 Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson
 Sue Gates, prelude and postlude
 Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist
 Kara Pies, vocalist
 Stacy Geffre, vocalist