

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
First Sunday of Advent  
zionlutheranaberdeem.org  
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

VanderWeyst Family

#### SONG

*Light the Candle to Watch for the Messiah*

ELW #240

Vs. 1

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

### CONFESSING OUR SINS AND HEARING GOOD NEWS

Blessed by the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence for reflection and personal confession.*

God for whom we wait,  
in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.  
We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
† your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

### *Lord of Light*

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
Though wars may rage  
and pain surrounds you,  
your heart will hope.  
He's the source of life.

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
Wait, be still.  
God's strong arms keep you.  
Wait, be strong.  
He's the source of life.

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
For in the day of trouble,  
He will keep me safe.  
Though enemies surround me,  
I will sing to the Lord.

The Lord of life, is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the Lord of life.  
The Lord of life, is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the Lord of life.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## KIDS' TIME

Pastor Mark

## PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

*(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

## ALLELUIA

## *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

ELW #257

Vs. 1 & 2

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.

2      O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

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

## GOSPEL

## Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup>There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*How Great is Our God*

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide;  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God!  
Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God.

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, Three In One, Father, Spirit, Son;  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God!  
Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.  
My heart will sing how great is our God.  
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.  
My heart will sing how great is our God.

How great is our God!  
Sing with me, how great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God.  
How great, how great is our God.

**APOSTLES' CREE**

God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Jesus the Messiah. 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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

### *Prayers of Intercession*

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **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. We encourage you to consider giving a gift online at [zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving](http://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 SONG

### *Great is the Lord*

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.  
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:  
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.  
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:  
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this time, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence 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.

## **BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through † Christ Jesus for whom we wait.  
**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**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

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.