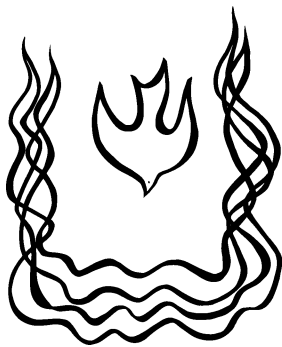


Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Third Sunday of Advent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Christ’s presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & KIDS’ TIME

Pies Family

O ransomed people of the Lord, come,
let us travel on God’s holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

HYMN	<i>Light the Candle to Watch for the Messiah</i>	ELW #240
	Vs. 1, 2, 3	

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

- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

CONFESSING OUR SINS AND HEARING GOOD NEWS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John,
that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes
Zion Men's Vocal Group

Mary Louise Bringle

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-7

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
³Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

⁷All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall be acceptable on my altar,
and I will glorify my glorious house.

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

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW #257

Vs. 5 & 6

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Refrain

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

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*

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the

Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

SERMON Pastor Mark Galbraith

SONG OF THE DAY *Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.
Wonderful Counselor,
Lord of Life, Lord of All,
He's the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy One.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

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He's the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy One.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

APOSTLES' CREED

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 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

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

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

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.

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE