

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & KIDS’ TIME

O people of hope, come,
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen

SONG	<i>Light the Candle to Watch for the Messiah</i>	ELW #240
	Vs. 1 & 2	

- 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.

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND HEARING GOOD NEWS

Blessed be 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

Be Unto Your Name

We are the moment, You are forever.
Lord of all ages, God before time.
We are a vapor. You are eternal.
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Highest praises honor and glory,
Be unto Your name,
Be unto Your name.

We are the broken, you are the healer.
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save.
You are the love song we'll sing forever.
Bowing before You, blessing your name.

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Highest praises honor and glory,
Be unto Your name,
Be unto Your name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praise
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

ALLELUIA **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** **ELW #257**

Vs. 3 & 4

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

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

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

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

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark Galbraith

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;
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Let all who call his name prepare the way.

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

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.

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 simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG

Refiner's Fire

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold and precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire.
Is to be holy, set apart for You Lord.
I chose to be holy, set apart for You my master.
Ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire.
Is to be holy, set apart for You Lord.
I chose to be holy, set apart for You my master.
Ready to do Your will,
Ready to do Your will,
Ready to do Your will.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his gracious love and peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:
Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. 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

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

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

POSTLUDE