

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

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

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* **ELW #815**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

**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**

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup>The 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.  
<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
<sup>17</sup>The 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  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,

<sup>19</sup>I 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.

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

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

**ALLELUIA**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**Vs. 3 & 4**

**ELW #257**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>In 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, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as 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.

<sup>5</sup>Every 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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

ELW #265

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

## 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 CHURCH

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

*Prayer response:* Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

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.*



**MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Filled with Hope and Gratitude*  
Zion Men's Vocal Group

Paul Damico-Carper

**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, who art in heaven,  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
    who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
    forever and ever. **Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Advent Reflections on Organ*

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

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 HYMN**

*Savior of the Nations, Come* ELW #263

- 1     Savior of the nations, come;  
      virgin's son, make here your home.  
      Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:  
      God has chosen such a birth.
- 2     Not by human flesh and blood,  
      but the mystic Breath of God,  
      was the Word of God made flesh,  
      fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
- 3     Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—  
      from his throne, a virgin mild!  
      Very God, and Mary's son,  
      eager now his race to run!
- 4     From God's heart the Savior speeds,  
      back to God his pathway leads;  
      out to vanquish death's command,  
      back to reign at God's right hand.
- 5     Now your manger, shining bright,  
      hallows night with newborn light.  
      Night cannot this light subdue;  
      let our faith shine ever new.
- 6     Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
      virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
      To the holy Trinity  
      praise we sing eternally!

**SENDING WORDS**

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

**POSTLUDE**