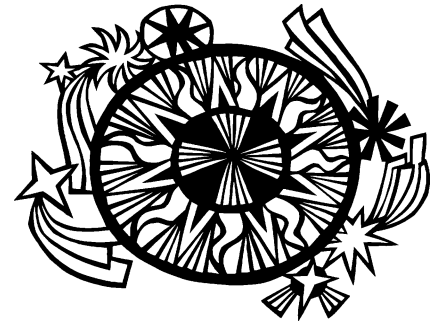


Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Second Sunday of Christmas
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Made to Worship

Before the day, before the light.
Before the world revolved around the sun.
God on high stepped down into time
And wrote the story of His love for everyone.
He has filled our hearts with wonder.
So that we always remember;

You and I were made to worship
You and I are called to love.
You and I are forgiven and free.
When you and I embrace surrender,
When you and I choose to believe
Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

All we are, and all we have.
Is all a gift from God that we receive.
Brought to life we open our eyes,
To see the majesty and glory of the king.
He has filled our hearts with wonder.
So that we always remember;

You and I were made to worship
You and I are called to love.
You and I are forgiven and free.
When you and I embrace surrender,
When you and I choose to believe
Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

Even the rocks cry out,
Even the heavens shout,
At the sound of His Holy name.
So let every voice sing out
Let every knee bow down
He's worthy of all our praise

You and I were made to worship
You and I are called to love.
You and I are forgiven and free.
When you and I embrace surrender,

When you and I choose to believe
Then you and I will see, who we were meant to be.

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 be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples,
and who breathes peace on all the earth.
Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

Holy God,
we confess our sin before you.
We replace compassion with competition.
We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.
We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.
We have not put on love in harmony with you.
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.
Swaddle our hearts with your peace,
that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us.
Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:
God has come among us
in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.
☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven
and you are clothed in 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

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!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1: 3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the

fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

ALLELUIA

Alleluia (I Am the Light of the World)

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Those who follow me will not walk in darkness.

Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Galbraith

SONG OF THE DAY

We Three Kings

1 We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. *Refrain*

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of

your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

Jesus, What a Beautiful Name

Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Son of God, Son of Man, Lamb that was slain.

Joy and peace, strength and hope,

Grace that blows all fear away,

Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name,

Truth revealed, my future sealed, healed my pain.

Love and freedom, life and warmth,

Grace that blows all fear away.

Jesus, what a beautiful name.

Jesus, what a beautiful name,

Rescued my soul, my stronghold lifts me from shame.

Forgiveness, security, power and love,

Grace that blows all fear away.

Jesus, what a beautiful name.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ’s manger, at Christ’s table, come, see what God makes known for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION SONG *Beautiful Savior*

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man.
Truly I’d love thee, truly I’d serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high.
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man.
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine.

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:
We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *That’s Why We Praise Him*

He came to live, live a perfect life;
He came to be the living Word of Life;
He came to die so we’d be reconciled;
He came to rise, to show His power and might.

That's why we praise Him; that's why we sing;
That's why we offer Him our everything;
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause He gave His ev'rything.

He came to live, live again in us;
He came to be our conquering King and Friend;
He came to heal and show the lost ones His love;
He came to go prepare a place for us.

That's why we praise Him; that's why we sing;
That's why we offer Him our everything;
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause He gave His ev'ry –

That's why we praise Him; that's why we sing;
That's why we offer Him our everything;
That's why we bow down and worship this King,
'Cause He gave His ev'rything.
'Cause He gave His ev'rything.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE