

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Third Sunday in Advent
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Madsen Family

SONG

Change My Heart

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay; mold me and make me,
This is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like you.

INVOCATION

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✠ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.
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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Coventry Carol
Jeremy Schutter, trombone

Lloyd Larson

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
 and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people;
 no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:7-12

(read responsively)

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
 let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins,
 and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

Advent Alleluia

Sing to God, all praises bring.
 Praise the Christ, our coming King.
 And the Holy Spirit praise,
 to the Trinity we raise.
 Glo-- --ria, in excelsis De—o!
 Glo-- --ria, in excelsis De—o!

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

GOSPEL **Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

SERMON **Pastor Jim Holthus**

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.

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.

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;
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.

The Lord strong and mighty;
The Lord mighty to save.
The earth is full of His glory;
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His love endureth forever;
His power is without an end;
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Let all who call his name prepare the way.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. 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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Prayer response: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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:
Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through 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.

LITANY

Each of us is broken by sin and less than God has created us to be, but this does not disqualify us from being touched by God and serving God in any capacity, large or small, broken as we are.

God uses broken things. It takes broken clouds to give rain, broken ground to give grain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, 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 it is 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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord’s Supper bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s Table.

COMMUNION SONG *Agnus Dei*

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia! Holy, Holy are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
For You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, Amen!

Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia! Holy, Holy are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb,
For You are holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, amen!

BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:
Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Hope of the Nations

Jesus, hope of the nations.
Jesus comfort for all who mourn.
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth.

Jesus light in the darkness.
Jesus truth in each circumstance.
You are the source of Heaven's light on earth.

In History, You live and died.
You broke the chains, You rose to life

You are the hope living in us.
You are the rock in whom we trust.
You are the light shining for all the world to see.

You rose from the dead, conquering fear,
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near.
Jesus our hope
Living for all who will receive. Lord we believe!!

Jesus, hope of the nations.
Jesus comfort for all who mourn.
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth.

Jesus light in the darkness.
Jesus truth in each circumstance.
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Our Prince of Peace drawing us near.
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Living for all who will receive. Lord we believe!

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE