

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

PRELUDE *Advent Hymns* Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Jondahl Family

HYMN *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (x3)* ELW #752  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW, pg. 121

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

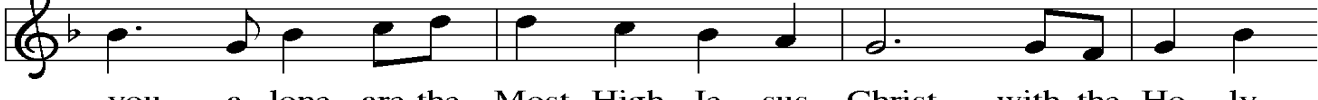
*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

## 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 nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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

*Will We Know Him?*  
Soloist: Zach Anderson

Don Besig

## FIRST READING

Proverbs 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>For learning about wisdom and instruction,  
for understanding words of insight,

<sup>3</sup>for gaining instruction in wise dealing,  
righteousness, justice, and equity;

<sup>4</sup>to teach shrewdness to the simple,  
knowledge and prudence to the young —

<sup>5</sup>let the wise also hear and gain in learning,  
and the discerning acquire skill,

<sup>6</sup>to understand a proverb and a figure,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.

<sup>7</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

<sup>8</sup>Hear, my child, your father's instruction,  
and do not reject your mother's teaching;

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

<sup>11</sup>and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
him the Gentiles shall hope."

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 third chapter.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

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

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

SERMON

Pastor Jim Holthus

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak

ELW #676

- 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let us seek  
your straying children, lost and lone.
- 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead  
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;  
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed  
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.
- 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
the precious truths which you impart;  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.
- 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,  
until our very hearts o'erflow

in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

## 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 CHURCH

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](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.*



## OFFERING HYMN

### *Prepare the Royal Highway*

ELW #264

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

### *Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

2     God's people, see him coming:  
      your own eternal king!  
      Palm branches strew before him!  
      Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
      God's promise will not fail you!  
      No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3     Then fling the gates wide open  
      to greet your promised king!  
      Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
      its tribute too may bring.  
      All lands will bow before him;  
      their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4     His is no earthly kingdom;  
      it comes from heav'n above.  
      His rule is peace and freedom  
      and justice, truth, and love.  
      So let your praise be sounding  
      for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

#### 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

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave us:

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

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 HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW # 256

- 1
- "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever.
- 2
- For the herald's voice is crying  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to true repentance,  
since the reign of God is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way.  
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;  
hills, bow down in humble favor.
- 3
- Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
and the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now on earth is shed abroad,  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that God's word is never broken.

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 HYMN

*The King Shall Come*

(tune of Joy to the World)

1

The king shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes, and life to joy awakes,  
and life, and life to joy awakes.

2

O brighter than the rising morn  
when he, victorious, rose,  
and left the lonesome place of death,  
despite the rage of foes, despite the rage of foes  
despite, despite the rage of foes.

3

O brighter than the glorious morn  
shall this fair morning be,  
when Christ our king in beauty comes,  
and we his face shall see, and we his face shall see,  
and we, and we his face shall see.

4

The king shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings;  
Hail, Christ the Lord! your people pray,  
come quickly, King of Kings, come quickly, King of Kings,  
come quickly, quickly, King of Kings!

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

James D. Holloway