

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
First Sunday of Advent  
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  
Vs. 1

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  
Vs. 3

ELW #256

- 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.

INVOCATION

*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 opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.  
**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,  
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.  
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.  
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.  
We choose comfort over courage.  
We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.  
Turn our hearts again to you.  
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.  
Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:  
God clothes you with garments of salvation  
and covers you with robes of righteousness.  
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
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**

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

**ELW #251**

1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.

- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### KIDS' TIME

LuMin

#### FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

- <sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

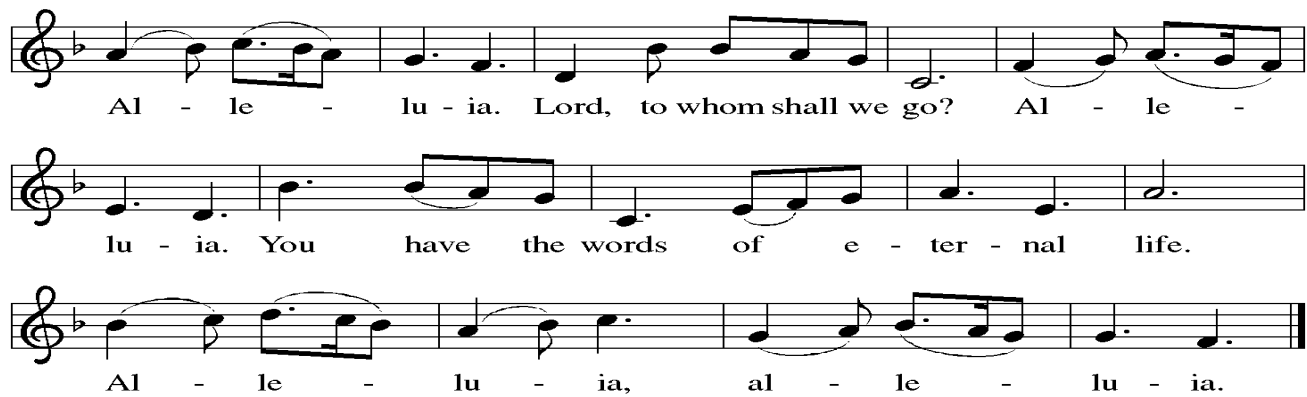
Word of God. Word of life.  
Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
<sup>2</sup>**before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**  
**Stir up your might,**  
**and come to save us!**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O Lord GOD of hosts,**  
**how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
<sup>6</sup>**You make us the scorn of our neighbors;**  
**our enemies laugh among themselves.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
<sup>17</sup>**But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**  
**the one whom you made strong for yourself.**  
<sup>18</sup>Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.  
<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**  
**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will  
send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the  
ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth  
its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you  
know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until  
all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass  
away.

<sup>32</sup>"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,  
but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is  
like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his  
work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do  
not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow,  
or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I  
say to all: Keep awake."

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

## SERMON

Pastor Jim Holthus

- 1     Dearest Jesus, at your word  
      we have come again to hear you;  
      let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
      and in glowing faith be near you  
      as the promises here given  
      draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2     All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
      lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
      till your Spirit breaks the night,  
      filling us with light unclouded.  
      All good thoughts and all good living  
      come but by your gracious giving.
- 3     Radiance of God's glory bright,  
      Light of light from God proceeding,  
      Jesus, send your blessed light;  
      help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
      that our prayers and songs may please you,  
      as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4     Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
      praise to you and adoration!  
      Grant us what we need the most:  
      all your gospel's consolation  
      while we here on earth await you,  
      till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

**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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*Prayer response:* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **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

### *He Came Down*

ELW #253

- 1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through 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.

### 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

## 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

### *Taste and See*

ELW #493

Verses—Cantor

Refrain—Congregation

### *Refrain*

Taste and see, taste and see  
the goodness of the Lord.  
Oh, taste and see, taste and see  
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times.  
Praise shall always be on my lips;  
my soul shall glory in the Lord;  
for God has been so good to me. *Refrain*
- 2 Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us all praise God's name.  
I called the Lord, who answered me;  
from all my troubles I was set free. *Refrain*
- 3 Worship the Lord, all you people.  
You'll want for nothing if you ask.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

## BLESSING

And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which you have received, strengthen you and keep you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

## *All Earth is Hopeful*

ELW #266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us,"  
our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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