

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we turn our hearts to worship:

Bless this place and your people, O God, as they come excited for what has been and expectant for what will be. Allow the advent of your coming to be a place of hope, peace, love and joy for each of your children. Help us to wait with childlike curiosity, empowering us to seek the works of your goodness in moments that have yet to be. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG

Come On, Ring Those Bells

GATHERING LITURGY

A season of joy begins new today,
a season of joy to guide our way;

joy unfolding to reveal life.
joy that banishes human strife.

When you think about joy, what comes to your mind? What fills up your spirit—is it the presents or the presence of God?

PROGRAM BEGINS

SONG

People Look East

ELW #248

Vs. 1

- 1 People look east the time is near
of the crowing of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east, and sing today
Love, the guest is one the way.

PROGRAM CONTINUES

SONG***People Look East*****ELW #248**

Vs. 4

- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGEL**SONG*****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!

THE PRESENCE OF GOVERNMENT OPPRESSION**THE PRESENCE OF JOSEPH AND MARY****THE PRESENCE OF BABY JESUS****SONG*****Away in a Manger*****ELW #277***(Children vs. 1; congregation vs. 2&3)*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

THE PRESENCE OF THE SHEPHERDS (AND ANGELS)

SONG

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

(Children sing refrain; congregation sing verses)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

THE PRESENCE OF THE GOD

SONG

Awesome God

(Children only)

Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above.
With wisdom, strength and love,
Our God is an awesome God.

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 Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Prayer response: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

Christmas Offering

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth, they traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from heaven
And falling on their knees they bow before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due
O Lord, I bring an offering to you

The sun cannot compare to the glory of your love
There is no shadow in your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy Lord, I come

I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus, may you receive the honor that you're due
O Lord, I bring an offering to you

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

We come to the table of the Lord

expectant for the Emmanuel to work through us.

We come to the table of the Lord
expectant for the Emmanuel to touch us with his love.

We come to the table of the Lord
expectant that He will reveal his mercy, forgiveness and grace to us and all the world.
With the whole company of angels and the saints in light. Amen.

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

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints. Coming forward is a sign of faith, active and hungry to eat at God's table. All are welcome to come and taste the love of God.

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

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.

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.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW #290

(Children sing refrain; congregation sing verses)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Christ is near. Joyfully share the hope of his coming with all.

Thanks be to God and we will.

POSTLUDE

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