

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Fourth 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.**

GATHERING HYMN

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.

WREATH LIGHTING LITURGY

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

love unfolding to reveal life.

love that banishes human strife.

The candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of joy now find companionship with the candle of love. Scripture tells us, "There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love, and this world will end in the love of God. God's love pervades all aspects of this life—from birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers—God's love is there.

On this day, we look with hope, peace, and joy toward love of the one who is coming—a babe he will be, a man he will become. The son of God he is; the Savior of the world for all.

HYMN OF EXPECTATION

Peace, Peace, Peace

Hope, hope, hope—
the light of Christ is hope.
In all our darkness Christ is shining,
leading upward, faith refining.
Hope, hope, hope—
the light of Christ is hope.

Peace, peace, peace—
the gift of Christ is peace.
We walk with God, our past forgiven;
all in Him is life and heaven.
Peace, peace, peace—
the gift of Christ is peace.

Joy, joy, joy—
we praise You, Christ with joy!
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure;
highest calling, deepest pleasure!
Joy, joy, joy—
we praise You, Christ, with joy!

Love, love, love—
the heart of Christ is love.
On all who come, He pours His presence;
life and love in holy essence.
Love, love, love—
the heart of Christ is love.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
we open our hearts to you, O God, our creator.

A moment of silence for self-examination.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We often place our hope into worldly things and stray from right paths. We trust in what we can buy, instead of the peace you provide. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again to hope in you, 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 sign of hope and light in the dark places. It is a tender branch, a living sign, coming to life for you. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: God our parent, **there is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace; for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

FIRST READING

Psalm 113

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

²Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

⁶who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?
⁷He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
⁸to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
⁹He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW #257 vs. 4&7

4 O, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one;
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-45

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Nicole Martin

HYMN OF THE DAY

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!

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 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.



MUSICAL OFFERING

Mary Did You Know?

Zach Anderson & Zoe Kempf

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

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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 HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW, pg. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

I Come with Joy

ELW #482

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,

alive among us here,
alive among us here.

- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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 HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264 vs. 1&4

- 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!

- 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*

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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