

**Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD**  
**Christmas Eve**  
[zionlutheranaberdeen.org](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org)



**PRELUDE**      *The Gift of Love*      Zach Anderson/Kathy Brumbaugh

**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 ears of your people to soak in this good news that Christ is made flesh—Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*O, Come All Ye Faithful*

**ELW #283 vs. 1&2**

1      O come, all ye faithful,  
         joyful and triumphant!  
         O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
         come and behold him,  
         born the king of angels:

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

2      The highest, most holy,  
         light of light eternal,  
         born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
         Son of the Father  
         now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

**CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE & 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.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.  
**They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.**

For a child has been born for us—a son given to us.

**Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

His authority shall grow continually,

**and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

He will establish and uphold it with justice

**and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Hope in Christ

Peace in Christ

Joy in Christ

Love in Christ

Christ has come—

Emmanuel, God with us.

The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

**For in Christ, there is life; and his life is the light of all people.**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together: Almighty God, **you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth, we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and in the last day, wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **HYMN OF REFLECTION**

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

ELW #282 vs. 1&4

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years

shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**READING**

**Luke 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

**HYMN**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**ELW #279 vs. 1&2**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all the earth!

**READING**

**Luke 2:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**HYMN**

***Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***

**ELW #276**

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,

bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

### READING

### Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

### HYMN

### *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW #289 vs. 1&3

- 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.

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

### READING

### Luke 2:15-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**HYMN**

***The First Noel***

**ELW #300 vs. 1 & refrain**

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

**HOMILY**

**Reverend Nicole Martin**

**HYMN**

***What Child is This?***

**ELW #296**

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## **NICENE CREED**

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.  
**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.  
**Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.**

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.  
**Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.  
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.  
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament, that we may bear your light to all the world.**

### **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**

### ***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice***

**ELW #288**

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;

Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together: God with us, **you came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. 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**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
**We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.  
**May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## **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**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior. This is the table of the Lord. Coming forward is a sign of faith active and alive. You are welcome here. Come and receive God's grace for 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**

### ***Away in a Manger***

**ELW #277**

- 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN

## *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW #270

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### *Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ born of Mary this night, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: On this day, O God, **you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CANDLELIGHTING

## THE GOSPEL OF INCARNATION

### John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## CANDLELIGHT HYMN

### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

ELW #281

- 1 Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## CANDLELIGHT BLESSING

With the glow of the light of Christ warming your soul, be assured that God leads you as a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.

## BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and † Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

## *Joy to the World*

ELW #267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
  
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## SENDING WORDS

Merry Christmas! Joyfully share the gift of Jesus' love and grace with all people.

**Thanks be to God and we will.**

## POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.