

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
First Sunday of Christmas
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. Allow the ears of your people to soak in this good news that Christ is made flesh—Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

The Bells of Christmas

ELW #298 vs. 1,2,4,6

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
 the heav'nly guest is at the door.
 He comes to earthly dwellings still
 with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
 could scarcely find for you a bed.
 Your cradle was a manger stall,
 no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.
- 4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
 to keep our Christmas with our king,
 until our song, from loving souls,
 like rushing mighty water rolls!
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

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: Glory of Israel, **the coming of your son, Jesus, broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eyes to see your miraculous spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to the nations, for the sake of the one whose name is redemption for the peoples, Jesus Christ, our salvation. Amen.**

HYMN

Love Has Come

ELW #292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

DECLARATION OF THE PROPHETS

THE POINSETTIA

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW #272

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens ev'ry load.

- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

THE EVERGREEN BOUGH

HYMN

The Holly and the Ivy

- 1 The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

Refrain

O the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.

- 2 The holly bears a blossom,
As white as lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Savior. *Refrain*
- 3 The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas day in the morn. *refrain*
- 4 The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good. *Refrain*
- 5 The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
For to redeem us all. *Refrain*

THE NATIVITY SCENE

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!

THE CHRISTMAS TREE**HYMN*****O Christmas Tree***

- 1 O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
How steadfast are your branches!
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
How steadfast are your branches!
Your boughs are green in summer's clime
And through the snows of wintertime
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
How steadfast are your branches!
- 2 O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
Your boughs can teach a lesson.
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
Your boughs can teach a lesson.
That constant faith and hope sublime
Lend strength and comfort through all time
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
Your boughs can teach a lesson

SIMEON AND ANNA

- 1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
when angels clove the sky with song and light
and God embodied love and sheathed his might--
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!
- 2 And who could be the same for having held
the infant in their arms, and later felt
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled--
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!
- 3 You show the Father none has ever seen,
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
in bread and wine you visit us again--
Who could but see Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!
- 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise Immanuel!

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

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

Prayer response: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

ELW #287 vs. 1,5,6

- 1 Let all together praise our God
before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again
and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.
- 5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.
- 6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: God of heaven and earth, **from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

With gratitude for all the Emmanuel does for us, we turn to the altar, to standing communion with the Lord, with praise and thanksgiving for The Word.

Let us pray, Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW, pg. 219

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord,
and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one
whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; **rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let Our Gladness Have No End

ELW #291

- 1 Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!
for to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah!

Refrain

On this day God gave us
Christ, the Son, to save us;
Christ, the Son, to save us.

- 2 Prophetised in days of old, Hallelujah!
God has sent the one foretold. Hallelujah! *Refrain*
- 3 See the loveliest blooming rose, Hallelujah!
from the branch of Jesse grows. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

4 Into flesh is made the Word, Hallelujah!
 our true refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Christ is here. Joyfully share his coming with all.

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.