

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Second Sunday of Christmas
zionlutheranaberdeem.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we turn our hearts to worship:

Bless this place, O God, as we are gathered to hear your word. Inspire us through your spirit and generosity to see the love of the Christ child in all corners of our lives and in those around us, empowering us to serve and help others as he did. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Our Father, by Whose Name

ELW #640

- 1 Our Father, by whose name
all parenthood is known,
in love divine you claim
each fam'ly as your own.
Bless mothers, fathers, guarding well,
with constant love as sentinel,
the homes in which your people dwell.
- 2 O Christ, yourself a child
within an earthly home,
with heart still undefiled
to full adulthood come:
our children bless in ev'ry place
that they may all behold your face
and, knowing you, may grow in grace.
- 3 O Holy Spirit, bind
our hearts in unity
and teach us how to find
the love from self set free;
in all our hearts such love increase
that ev'ry home, by this release,
may be the dwelling place of peace.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We come to you, dear Lord,

**to give to you the wholeness of ourselves, confident in God's promise of forgiveness,
mercy, grace, love, and restoration.**

A moment of silence for self-examination.

God with us,

we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. Hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name ✠ of Jesus, who has come among us. **We are freed from proving that we deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to everyone as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. Amen.**

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Gathered in the Love of Christ

Gathered in the love of Christ,
we are one in the fam'ly of God.
We are the dwelling place that love has made.
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

Gathered in the love of Christ,
we are one in the fam'ly of God.
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Gathered in the love of Christ,
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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 of all learning, **when the boy, Jesus, stayed in the temple to learn from the elders, it was the elders who in turn learned from him. Teach us, Lord, as you have taught others, and grant us wisdom and willingness to learn. Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

PSALM**Psalm 2:7-8**

⁷I will tell of the decree of the LORD:
 He said to me, "You are my son;
 today I have begotten you.
⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
 and the ends of the earth your possession.

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

PREPARING FOR THE WORD**HYMN OF PREPARATION***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***ELW #172**

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Halle, halle, hallelujah.
 Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL**Luke 2:41-52**

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

SERMON**Reverend Nicole Martin**

HYMN OF THE DAY***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!

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 the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Holy God, **the earth and everything in it is yours, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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
celebrating the Emmanuel and his call to come learn and be filled with his love.

We come to the table of the Lord
celebrating the Emmanuel, Christ for us, who gives us his very body for our well-being.

We come to the table of the Lord
celebrating the Emmanuel, the Messiah, who takes on all our broken realities and gives back mercy, forgiveness, and grace to us and all the world.

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 child has been born to us—a Son given to us. Coming forward is a sign of faith active and hungry to receive the gift of Jesus. 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Sonya Kempf, organ

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: Incarnate God, **we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

BLESSING

Please receive this word as blessing for your spirit. A quote from Howard Thurman:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others,
to make music in the heart.

May the God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, so that in you the work of Christmas shines brightly wherever you go. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

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*

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Share the rich word of Christ's presence for all.

Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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