

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
Third Sunday in Advent  
[zionlutheranaberdeen.org](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org)

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

Today the third Sunday of advent we turn toward the joy that comes through Christ.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May your hearts be filled with God's joy toward all people as you consider the life of sacrifice and encouragement of John the Baptist. **Thanks be to God.**

**GATHERING SONG**

***Prepare the Way***

Prepare the way, make straight the path for Him.

Let the King of Glory enter in.

Let the King of Glory enter in.

Who is this King of Glory.

The Lord strong and mighty;

The Lord mighty to save.

The earth is full of His glory;

Creation calls prepare the way.

His love endureth forever;

His power is without an end;

His strength is victory's treasure

Let all who call his name prepare the way.

Prepare the way, make straight the path for Him

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Who is this King of Glory

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The Lord mighty to save.

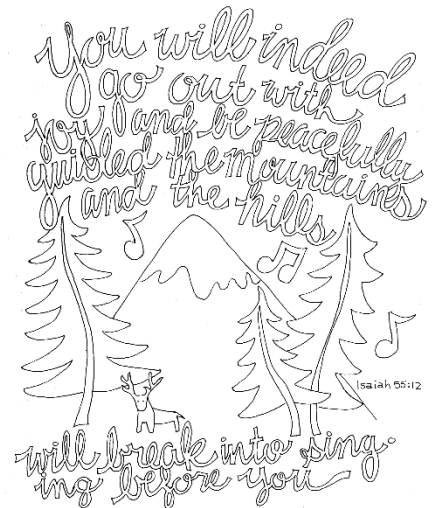
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His love endureth forever;  
His power is without an end;  
His strength is victory's treasure  
Let all who call his name prepare the way.

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

### **SONG OF EXPECTATION**

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

**ELW #257** Vs. 2

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.

#### *Refrain*

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

## **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 restoration, **save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water. Amen.**

## **KIDS' TIME & NOISY OFFERING**

### **SONG OF PREPARATION**

***He Came Down***

**ELW #253** Vs. 4

He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy;  
He came down that we may have joy;  
Hallelujah forever more.

The holy gospel according to John, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**John 4:13-14**

<sup>3</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

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

## **PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

### **FOCUS TEST**

### **Isaiah 55:1-13**

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, everyone who thirsts;  
    come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
    and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup>Now you shall call nations that you do not know,  
    and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
    call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked forsake their way  
    and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
    and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
    nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
    so are my ways higher than your ways  
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- <sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
    and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
    giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Nicole Martin**

### **SONG OF THE DAY**

#### ***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.

### **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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

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

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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](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 SONG

#### ***What Can I Give Him?***

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would give him a lamb.  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,  
But what can I give him? Give him my heart!

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
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If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,  
But what can I give him? Give him my heart!

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Nourishing God, **you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

## GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL

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.**

It is our duty and our joy to offer thanks and praise to the almighty and merciful God,  
**celebrating the work of God to bring forth the provision of salvation through Jesus Christ.**

God alone comforts the people with the promise of the Redeemer, the Emmanuel, through whom all things will be made new.

**Let us celebrate the work of God to judge us, not as the world would, but by God's righteousness alone. Let us celebrate the work of God to grant forgiveness, mercy, and grace.**

With all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the earth, sea and stars, and all the creatures, angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, let us give great thanks and praise, singing:

**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.**

## BLESSING OF THE MEAL

### 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**

Here is life. God is with us. Come; receive what God has promised.

### **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**

#### ***Come Just as You Are***

Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are; come and see, come receive.  
Come and live forever.

Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are; come receive Christ the King.  
Come and live forever.

Life everlasting and strength for today.  
Taste the living water, and never thirst again.

Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are; come and see, come receive.  
Come and live forever.

Come just as you are; hear the Spirit call.  
Come just as you are; come receive Christ the King.  
Come and live forever.

### **BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

Let us pray together: God, our host of the abundant table, **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## MINISTRY MOMENT

### SENDING BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

#### *Everlasting God*

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.  
Our God, You reign forever.  
Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God,  
The everlasting God,  
You do not faint,  
You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak,  
You comfort those in need  
You lift us up on wings, like eagles.

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### **SENDING WORDS**

Go in peace; keep awake; Christ is near! Joyfully share the hope of His coming with all.

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

### **POSTLUDE**

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