

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bless this place, O God, and your people, as they come to dwell with the story of your incarnation.

Allow the ears of your people to soak in this good news of Christ made flesh—Emmanuel, God with us.

GATHERING SONG

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

ELW #327

- 1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.
- 2 One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.
- 3 One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.

4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
 onward, with the cross our aid.
 Bear its shame, and fight its battle
 till we rest beneath its shade.
 Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
 soon the rending of the tomb!
 Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
 and the end of toil and gloom.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

God, wonderful counselor, **we come to you, giving of our whole self and remembering we have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace while denying it to others. We forget why you came to the manger and why you helped a stranger. We forget the depth of your love. Help us to offer hearts full of your abundant grace to others, just as you have offered it to us. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Hope in Christ
Faith in Christ
Joy in Christ
Peace in Christ

Christ has come: **Emmanuel, God with us. In him we are restored.**

SONG OF PREPARATION

He Came Down

ELW #253

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

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

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.

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

God's lovingkindness 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 the Jesus, who has come among us.

In Christ, we are freed because God's love is given to everyone as the most precious gift of all. Let us share hearts filled with God's love joyfully with others. 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 of all people, **You called many by name, asking them to follow Jesus and obey. Call us by name, and help us to follow and obey. Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

FIRST READING

Psalm 66:1-8

(read responsively)

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

² **sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.**

³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

⁴ **All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name."**

⁵ Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

⁶ **He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him,**

⁷ who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

⁸ **Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard.**

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

SONG OF PREPARATION

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288 Vs. 1&2

- 1 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 forever more.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

- 2 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!

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 1:35-51

⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Nicole Martin

- 1 Lead on, O King eternal!
 The day of march has come;
 henceforth in fields of conquest
 your tents will be our home.
 Through days of preparation
 your grace has made us strong;
 and now, O King eternal,
 we lift our battle song.
- 2 Lead on, O King eternal,
 till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 and holiness shall whisper
 the sweet amen of peace;
 for not with swords loud clashing,
 nor roll of stirring drums,
 but deeds of love and mercy
 the heav'nly kingdom comes.
- 3 Lead on, O King eternal:
 we follow, not with fears,
 for gladness breaks like morning
 where'er your face appears.
 Your cross is lifted o'er us;
 we journey in its light;
 the crown awaits the conquest;
 lead on, O God of might!

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 PEOPLE

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

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

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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 SONG

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 the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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.**

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, the Messiah.

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 connect with us. 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

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 God's grace is 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 SONG

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 SONG

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW #592

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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: 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.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

SENDING 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 and illumine your path. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW #661

- 1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

- 3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

SENDING WORDS

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

Thanks be to God, and we will. Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

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