

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Deerfield Beach, Florida

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

We Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Zion where, following Jesus, we invite, equip, and serve our neighbors and one another!

CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. [Silence for reflection.] God of all time, **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1, 5, 7, and 8)

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, o'er and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
and give them vic - t'ry the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE

The phrase "Kyrie eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy." The Cantor will sing the verses. This Refrain follows the verses three times before the final Amen.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM: LUKE 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
50 You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
52 casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
54 You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

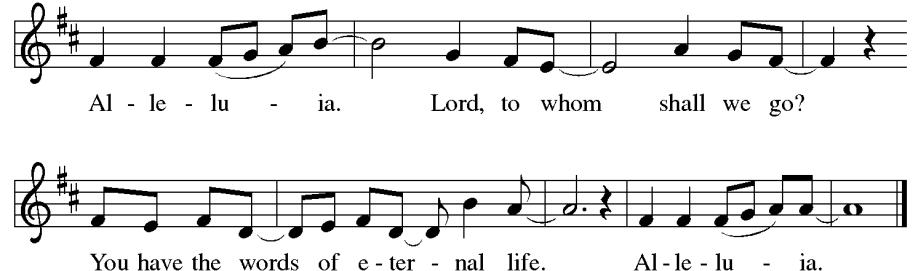
SECOND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter...
Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

CREED

Together with Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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 into hell.
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 INTERCESSION

After each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Feast on the Body & Blood of Christ

THE 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.

Holy and mysterious God,
in the beginning the darkness waited,
and you created light.

Sarah and Abraham waited for a future,
and you sent descendants greater than the stars.
The Hebrew slaves waited for rescue,
and you sent Miriam and Moses to enact your liberation.
Israel waited in exile for renewal,
and you empowered prophets and poets
with your life-giving speech.

As the whole world groaned in waiting
for release and rebirth,
you sent Jesus, born of strong Mary,
fathered by humble Joseph,
incarnate in our humility,
in solidarity with the suffering and the poor,
full of wisdom and grace for all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit into this broken world,
into our hopeful, imperfect gathering,
and on this sacred bread and wine
so we may be healed and whole again
and be filled with the courage to love.

Come, Holy Spirit!

All praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
here and now and into the great beyond.
Amen.

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.

PRAYER

Let us pray...God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit, may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

We Are Sent Forth to Love & Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \pm give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Soon and Very Soon" (Verse 1)



1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



1, 2, 3

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - -



jah, hal - le - lu - - jah, hal - le - lu - - jah.

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended; now the service begins.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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