

# First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Deerfield Beach, Florida

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

## We Gather

### CALL TO WORSHIP

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

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *[Silence for reflection.]* God of goodness and lovingkindness, **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (Verse 1)



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;  
now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je-sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.



Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### 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.**

## GLORIA

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (Verse 1 and Refrain)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore - on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:10—62:3

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
**tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,**  
**old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
 whose name only is exalted,  
 whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>**The Lord has raised up strength for the people**  
**and praise for all faithful servants,**  
**the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord.**  
**Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: GALATIANS 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

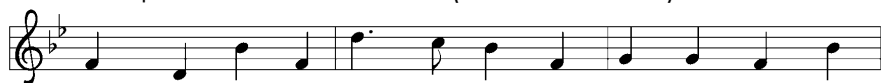
<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“In His Temple Now Behold Him” (Verses 1 and 2)



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -  
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -  
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,  
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

## CREED

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

**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 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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER

Let us pray...We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## We Are Sent Forth to Love & Serve

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

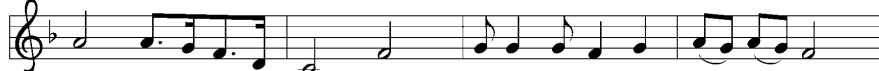
## BENEDICTION

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 ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (Refrain)

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended; now the service begins.  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus!  
**Thanks be to God!**

Portions of the liturgy are from *Sundays and Seasons.com*.  
© 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission  
under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014917.

Hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731250.  
All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version of the  
Bible, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National  
Council of Churches USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Eucharistic Prayer © 2018 Michael Coffey.  
Used by permission. From the blog [www.ocotillopub.org](http://www.ocotillopub.org)



## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

959 SE 6th Avenue  
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33441  
[www.zion-lutheran.org](http://www.zion-lutheran.org)



Follow Us



Give  
Online