



**GREAT
EXPECTATIONS**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT



BUT CONCERNING THAT DAY OR THAT HOUR,
NO ONE KNOWS, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS IN
HEAVEN, NOR THE SON, BUT ONLY THE FATHER.

Zion Lutheran Church
Online Worship Service
November 29, 2020

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou 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.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

INTROIT: *Psalm 25:1-3*

PASTOR: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me. Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PASTOR: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Here I Am to Worship

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness;
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You;
Hope of a life spent with You.**

**So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.**

**King of all days, oh so highly exalted;
Glorious in Heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth You created;
All for love's sake became poor.**

**So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.**

**I'll never know, how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross.**

**I'll never know, how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross.**

**So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.**

**So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

ALL: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with thy spirit.

PASTOR: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: *I Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 13:24-37*

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED (spoken in unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Advent of Our King

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite with Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

SERMON

Hope Is Dawning

Open up the skies and rain
The heavens down; the heavens down
Father, open up the skies and rain
The heavens down on us

Open up our eyes to see
Your glory found all around
Jesus, open up our eyes to see
Your glory's all around

We are longing
Hope is dawning
Heaven's falling
Come, Lord Jesus

Open up our hearts to say
Have Your way, have Your way
Spirit, open up our hearts to say
Won't You come and have Your way

We are longing
Hope is dawning
Heaven's falling
Come, Lord Jesus

**We are longing
Hope is dawning
Heaven's falling
Come, Lord Jesus.**

'Hope Is Dawning' by Aaron Keyes, Johnny Parks, Matt Maher, Michael Gungor
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

PASTOR: To You, O Lord, we lift up our souls and in You we put our trust. Do not let us be ashamed of our hope but come quickly. Sustain us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may have joy at the advent of Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Gracious Lord, enrich Your saints in every way as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed again among us. As You have called us into the fellowship of Your Son, so sustain us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Heavenly Father, preserve and bless all Christian households, that husbands and wives would live in love and service to each other, that fathers and mothers would diligently bring up their children in Your fear, and that children would honor their parents and be well equipped for service to their neighbors in this life. Lord, in Your mercy,
ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Almighty God, be with the governing authorities and enable them to preserve peace and order in our nation. Increase a spirit of unity and cooperation among the people of our land and the nations of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Compassionate Lord, behold in mercy all who are in any danger, trouble, sickness or need. Hear our prayers for the sick and suffering [especially _____]. Give health to our world and bring the pandemic to an end. Comfort all who mourn and sustain them with a confident hope in the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Eternal Father, You have given all judgment to Your Son, whose words will not pass away. Grant that Your people may hold fast to the words of Your Son. Sustain us in repentance and saving faith, united in a true confession and always awake, watching for Your return. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

BENEDICTION

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Behold Him

He who was before there was light,
Walked across the pages of time.
He who made ev'ry living thing, behold Him.
He who heard humanity's cry,
Left His throne to wake as a child.
He became like the least of us. Behold Him.

**Jesus, Son of God, Messiah,
The Lamb, the roaring Lion.
Oh, be still and behold Him.**

**He who dined with sinners and saints,
Healed the blind, the lost and the lame,
Even now He is in our midst. Behold Him.
He who chose a criminal's end,
Paid with blood to settle our debt,
Buried death as He rose to life, behold Him.**

**Jesus, Son of God, Messiah,
The Lamb, the roaring Lion.
Oh, be still and behold Him.**

**Jesus, Alpha and Omega,
Our God the risen Savior.
Oh, be still and behold Him.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Worthy, worthy, worthy to receive all praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Worthy, worthy, worthy to receive all praise.**

**Jesus, Son of God, Messiah,
The Lamb, the roaring Lion.
Oh, be still and behold Him.**

**Jesus, Alpha and Omega,
Our God the risen Savior.
Oh, be still and behold Him.**