

YOU ARE TO CALL HIM

JESUS

GREAT
EXPECTATIONS

THE SEASON OF ADVENT



HE WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED
THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH.

Zion Lutheran Church
Online Worship Service
December 20, 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 Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

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

INTROIT: *Psalm 19: 1,4-6*

PASTOR: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.

Even So Come

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint,
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame;
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

There will be justice, all will be new.
Your name forever, faithful and true;
Jesus is coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

So we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.

God, we wait, we wait for You.
God, we wait; You're coming soon.

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:

Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a Church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King, we sing:
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus come.

'Even So, Come' by Chris Tomlin, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

ALL: who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

ALL: and You forgave the iniquity of my sins.

PASTOR: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

ALL: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

PASTOR: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

KYRIE (spoken in unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11

After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor. "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." "The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead." Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?' He asked me, 'Who are you?' 'An Amalekite,' I answered. Then he said to me, 'Stand here by me and kill me! I'm in the throes of death, but I'm still alive.' So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord." Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 16:25-27*

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 1:26-38*

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

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.

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

SERMON

What Child Is This

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and lamb are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

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: O Most High, You have favored us in the incarnation of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. In everything, let it be to us according to Your Word. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with You, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: O Most High, You have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to Your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of Your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Strengthen Your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its leaders, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give them peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

PASTOR: O Most High, we give You thanks for Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Key of David and the scepter of the House of Israel. By His death, He has opened the kingdom of heaven and closed the gates of hell for all who trust in Him. By His resurrection, He has rescued the prisoners who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; through the same 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.

SONG OF THE SEASON

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.
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**"Behold Him" by Paul Baloche and Mitch Wong
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