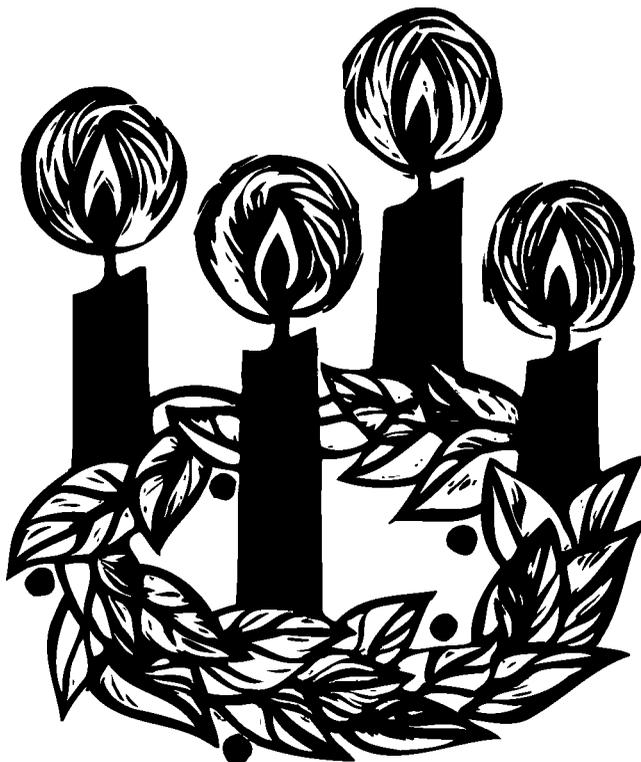


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

November 29, 2020



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required throughout the worship service.**

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewistownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
November 29, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

Introduction to the day

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

(*Stand)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.

**We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✚ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,
and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.*

*In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night
you led your people into freedom.*

*Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ;
may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,
and with all your creatures we give you glory,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The holy gospel according to Mark.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

²⁷Then 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.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

***NICENE CREED**

P With the whole church let us confess.

**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**

P God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for our leaders who light the way of Christ for your church. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, teachers, and council members. Embed your word in their hearts.

As your body we pray.

C **Wait with us. Watch with us. Hear our prayers.**

L We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Give elected leaders, medical personnel, social workers, teachers, and caregivers the compassion and courage to serve as you have empowered them.

As your body we pray.

C **Wait with us. Watch with us. Hear our prayers.**

L We pray for the people in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Inspire us to comfort those who grieve, to be a companion to all who are lonely or depressed, and tend those who are sick or struggling, especially those listed in our bulletin and those we name now in our hearts.

Gather all people in your healing embrace.

As your body we pray.

C **Wait with us. Watch with us. Hear our prayers.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vs1 & 2)*

- 1 *Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.*

- 2 *King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

- L** Let us pray.
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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**

P Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1 & 3)*

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

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

3 *O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Refrain*

COMMUNION

Please remain seated communion will be brought to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.

C **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the
hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and
to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MINISTRY OF ZION

*BLESSING

P Even as we wait, watch, and wonder, God is with us.
Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen

*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS007700.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission from Onelicense.net A-725307 & CCLI

Serving Us:

Pr. Lynne Ogren

Organist: Brian Priest

Usher: Aaron & Caylee Aanenson

Lectors: Falan & Cheyenne Aanenson

Communion Assistants:

Lana Papp, Foss Wilson, & Cameryn Aanenson

Disciples: All the Baptized

Website: www.zionlewistownelca.com

Contact us: 538-5082 zionelca@midrivers.com

Welcome! Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Dianne Kaldor (Meryl McKenna’s sister), Russ Hodge, Bill Steele

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau, Marv Mathison

Social Concern for November Love, INC. Gap Ministry – “When people come to Love, INC, more often than not, they are caught up in crisis. Gap Ministries help to “quiet the crisis” so that the real work of teaching, relationship building and transformation can begin.” Zion has agreed to host a Personal Care Closet which will help to fill one of the “gaps”. Brown paper bags with a list of items needed are on the narthex table for your convenience or you may take one of the bright green cards. If you would like to help supply some of these items, please bring them to the church by November 30th. Questions call the office, 538-5082

The Good Gifts tree is up and full of ornaments! If you would like to honor a loved-one or friend and in-turn help others in need, you can purchase an ornament(s). Please make your check out to Zion and note “Good Gifts” on the memo line. Cards are available on the table next to the tree.

Week of 11/30 – 12/6/2020

Wed	Noon	Men over lunch at the Elk’s
	3:30pm	B.L.A.S.T. (Grades 2-6)
	3:45pm	Confirmation
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sat	10:00- 12pm	ZLCW Mini-Bazaar – pickup wreaths in lefse in parking lot
Sun	9:30am	Advent 2 Worship

Zion will be ringing the **Salvation Army bell** on December 14 & 15 from 10am-7pm at Albertsons. Signup sheets will be on the table in the narthex.

ZLCW Mini Bazaar December 5. Cindy Giese has made and donated a quilt, raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00 and will be sold in the narthex. Lefse and wreaths can be picked up on December 5th from 10am-12.

Trust Scholarship Applications are available on the narthex table. Applications must be returned to Zion by December 9th. Questions call the office 538-5082. The Committee would like to thank all who contributed to the Scholarship Fund this past month. Over \$9000 was raised to help support Zion's students wishing to further their education after high school. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Serving on Staff:

Secretary: Falan Aanenson

Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz

Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson

Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker