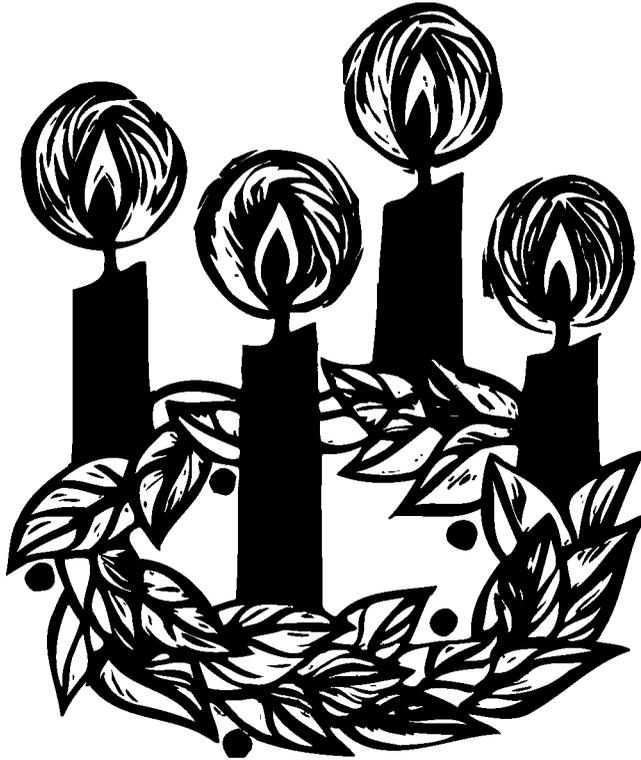


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

December 20, 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.zionlewisownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

**Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
**December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Introduction to the day**

*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."*

(\*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 **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.**

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

A reading from 2 Samuel

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the 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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>Wherever 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?" <sup>8</sup>Now 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; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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, <sup>11</sup>from 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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-45**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

**P** The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord*

## **\*NICENE CREED**

C With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**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.

L 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, VV. 1 & 2 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vs. 1 & 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 & 5)*

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.*

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*

## 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.**

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**Serving Us:**  
**Pr. Lynne Ogren**  
**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**  
**Ushers: Brad & Aleia Arntzen**  
**Lectors: Stacie & Ashlen Arntzen**  
**Communion Assistants: Stacie, Abby & Ashlen Arntzen**  
**Disciples: All the Baptized**

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

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Jessie Stewart, Kathie Bailey

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

**Social Concern for December: Salvation Army.** The Salvation Army serves  
Lewistown and the surrounding area and their primary source of funding is the annual  
Red Kettle Drive in December. If you would like to donate, please make your check out  
to Zion and note “Salvation Army” on the memo line.

**Congratulations** to Dan & Alicia Balster upon the birth of their son, Clayton James, on December 14<sup>th</sup>. He was welcomed by his sister, Cora, brother, Brantley, and grandparents, Steve and Shirley.

**Week of 12/21 – 1/03/2021**

Mon	7:00pm	Council Meeting via Zoom
Wed	Noon	Men over lunch at Elk’s Club
	7:00pm	Advent 4 Worship Video (Facebook and YouTube)
Thur		Christmas Eve Worship Video (Facebook and YouTube)
Sun		On-Line Video Worship (Facebook and YouTube) – No in-church worship service
12/28-31		Church office will be open 9am-Noon
Jan 3, 2021		
Sun	9:30am	Worship

**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.

Serving on Staff:  
Secretary: Falan Aanenson  
Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz  
Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson  
Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker

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