

**"You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ"**

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**AN ADVENT SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER**  
**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT**

**The First Sunday In Advent**

**November 29, 2020**

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**AS WE GATHER**

The Church Year begins by taking us to the scene of our Lord's final entry into Jerusalem that great and holy week. Yes, Christmas is at hand. Surely the preparations for the celebration of His incarnation, His earthly birth of the Virgin Mary, are already well under way. But wait a moment. We enter this new year already knowing why He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit for us and for our salvation, which is only by way of His passion, death, and resurrection. We begin by continuing to "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" on the Last Day (1 Corinthians 1:7), sustained by Him now in the forgiveness of our sins, guiltless and ready. In readiness, we boldly pray that our Lord comes to rescue and save us.



**ADVENT AT ZION**

**Lutheran Christians keep Advent as a penitential season; a season of personal preparation, examination, and anticipation.** We remember with deep gratitude Jesus' birth among us and for us; we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and the renewal of His life in us; we pray for and look forward to His Advent return in glory and grace.

**The Advent Wreath**, with the lighting of a candle each week, signals the approach of Nativity celebration and underlines the waiting and longing of God's people throughout Holy History. The color **blue**, the church's designated color for **Hope** adorns the altar, pulpit, advent candles, and the clergy stole. **At Zion the Christmas tree** itself is a symbol of the passing of Advent time and the approach of Christmas as each week the tree assumes a new form - the first Sunday unadorned, the second Sunday lighted, the third Sunday (Joy Sunday) decorated, the fourth Sunday accompanied by the decorations and worship accessories throughout the sanctuary the tree and sanctuary are now "prepared" for Christmas worship.

**The placement of the altar** too reminds us that this is a penitential season and emphasizes the two primary dynamics or directions of worship, the **sacrificial** and the **sacramental**. The **sacramental** dimensions of worship describe God's presence and **God's gifts to us** in the Liturgy e.g. God's Word, Holy Baptism, Lord's Supper ... while the **sacrificial** actions of worship are the liturgical **responses of God's people to His grace in Christ** e.g. praise, prayer, offering ... The altar at the center of the chancel emphasizes the sacramental as God invites us to gather around His **table** for the sacred meal at which Jesus Christ is both host and healer. This placement also recalls the earliest liturgical and sacramental practice of the church. Placed against the chancel wall the altar reminds us of the sacrifice of God's people as we bring to Him our offerings of praise, petition and possessions. The more solemn penitential seasons of Advent and Lent are emphasized in our worship through the **sacrificial** placement of the altar against the chancel wall. In a similar way, the high festival season of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost present the altar as the table on which God offers us His Sacraments; **sacramental** grace and gifts.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP**

David Garcia, *Organ*  
Pastor Stephen Heimer

**MISSION PRAYER**

*O Emmanuel, our Advent King, You stand in time and eternity as the resurrection joy of your people and as the sign of final peace among nations. Breathe into Your Church anew this Advent Season Your Holy Spirit that we might live your victory and be a sign of your peace to the lost and the lonely, the broken hearted and broken in spirit, the despairing and dying. Breathe into us, your people of Zion, the vitality and vision to reach out to our communities with the eternal Gospel of Your Kingdom coming in joy and peace. In Your precious Name we pray. Amen.*

## ADVENT GOSPEL

(The Palm Sunday triumphal entry)

Mark 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup>And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup>And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

## OPENING HYMN

"The Advent of Our King" LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

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## INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Everlasting Father.**
- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Prince Of Peace.**
- P** In the Name of God,
- C** **The Wonderful Counselor.**
- P** In the strong Name of the Holy Trinity,
- C** **The Father, The Son, + And The Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The sign of the Holy Cross may be made by all in remembrance and celebration of their baptism.*

## CALL TO ADVENT WORSHIP

- P** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the Desert a highway for our God.
- C** **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**
- P** And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
- C** **We wait and we watch for the advent of the glory of the Lord. Your kingdom come! Amen!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Heavenly Father, we are slow to wake up, to prepare, to repent ... even though John the Baptizer, preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins; though Jesus called all prodigals to wake up and head for the Father's home; though the apostles challenged the church to live as a new creation in the midst of an old and dying order.
- C** **Forgive our preoccupation, our indifference, our slowness, our selfishness, our fear. In our baptism turn us daily always to you, to the promise of Bethlehem, and to your Son's cross and His resurrection.**

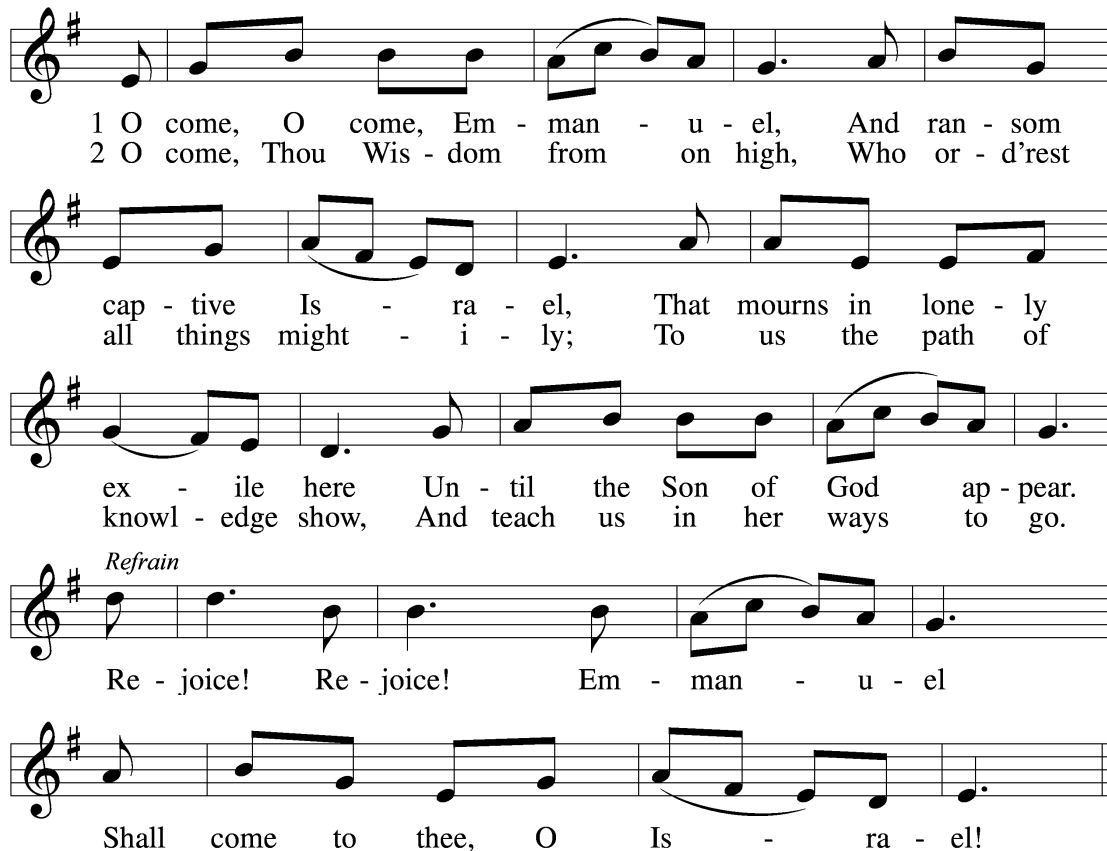
**P** The Lord is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is patient and gracious to us not willing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3) Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called 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: To God who by the power at work in us is able to accomplish far more abundantly than all we ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3)**

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v.1-2 LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

### SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**G** **Amen.**

### PSALM

Psalm 25:1-3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.



**P** Behold, your king is com- | ing to you; \*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
To you, | O LORD, \*  
I lift | up my soul.

**G** 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.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
To you, | O LORD,\*  
I lift | up my soul.

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR THE DAY

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

(Rend the heavens and come down)

Isaiah 64:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### EPISTLE READING

(We wait. God is faithful.)

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

**G** all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

### GOSPEL READING

(Wait and watch for the coming of Christ)

Mark 13:24–37

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>"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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you,

this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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— <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

**C** Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**L** Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

**C** Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

### APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

### HYMN OF THE DAY

"Savior of the Nations, Come" v.1-3,6 LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 All our ills of flesh and soul.

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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

### SERMON

"We Pray, 'Come Lord Jesus'"

### OFFERING

"Now Thank We All Our God" – Bruce Nehring, *Piano*

## OFFERTORY

"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" v.1 LSB 782



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.

*Refrain*

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,  
Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

### MORNING PRAYER

(Luther)

**I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

### CLOSING PRAYER

**Grant, O Lord that the lips which have sung your praise in this sanctuary will glorify You in the world, that the ears which have heard the voice of the Shepherd will be closed to the clamor of anger and dispute, that the eyes which have seen your great love will also share your blessed hope, that the tongues which have confessed your name will ever speak the truth, and that the bodies which today have served in sacrifice and thanksgiving will worship You forever with all the saints, angels, and the whole company of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION AND COMMISSION

**P** Go out into the world in Christ's peace; have courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And Almighty God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you. (Romans 12:9-12)

**C Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" v.1-2,5 LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POSTLUDE

David Garcia, *Organ*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## Offerings

*You can contribute offerings using three main methods:*

**Online donations:** You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at [www.zionelpaso.org](http://www.zionelpaso.org). We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

**Mail donations:** Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

**Donations via an app:** If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

*Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!*



**Join Us for Special Services During Advent!** In addition to our Sunday worship services, we will have evening services on Wednesdays at 7:00pm throughout Advent! Here is our schedule of special services:

**Wednesday, December 2** – "You Have My Word"

**Wednesday, December 9** – "A Man Named John"

**Wednesday, December 16** – "Chosen Children"

**Thursday, December 24** – "The Word Dwelt Among Us"

**Friday, December 25** (10:30AM) – "We Have Seen His Glory"

+ + +

**ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE**

**Preacher & Liturgist:** Pastor Stephen Heimer  
**Organist:** David Garcia  
**Elder:** Jim Smith  
**Reader:** Shirley Batts  
**Camera Operator:** Jaden Heimer  
**Sound Director:** Brenna Rodriguez  
**Offering Counter:** Sharon Amastae

**THIS WEEK AT ZION**

12/2	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Advent Worship Service
12/4	Friday	10:00 AM	"Faith That Sees Through the Culture" Bible Study
12/6	Sunday	9:15 AM	"Households of Faith" Bible Study
		10:30 AM	Worship Service