

# **FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT**

**Who is Jesus?**

**“Jesus is the Son of Mary”**

**December 22, 2023**

**10:30 am**

Zion Lutheran Church  
1400 South Duluth Avenue  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

[www.zionlutheransf.com](http://www.zionlutheransf.com)

 **Zion Lutheran Sioux Falls**

## **AS WE GATHER**

Who is Jesus? That’s the question we’re asking this Advent, using Matthew 1 to guide us. Who is Jesus? It’s the most important question that we can ever ask. Today as we ask the question Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Son of Mary. Meaning what? With Jesus and Immanuel, we are given all of God’s love, grace and mercy!

**ZION CHOIR:** “A Wintery Noel”

**WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREET ONE ANOTHER**

Pastor: Jesus is the Son of David.

**People: Our coming King!**

Pastor: Jesus is the Son of Abraham.

**People: Our sacrifice for sin!**

Pastor: Jesus is the Son of Solomon.

**People: He finished for us!**

Pastor: Jesus is the Son of Mary.

**People: Immanuel—God with us!**

Pastor: Jesus is the Son of Sinners.

**People: He forever loves us!**

Pastor: Let us worship Jesus!

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**People: and illumine Your Church.**

Pastor: The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God’s perfect love. He is God’s love in human form. The Bible says that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people’s troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. We light this candle today to remind us of how God’s perfect love is found in Jesus.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

## CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

**People: 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.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### PRAISE SONG: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

#### Verse 1

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

#### Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

#### Verse 3

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

#### Verse 4

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

## TIME IN THE WORD

Reader: The Readings today are about Jesus, the Son of Mary.

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:1-14

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so, the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.” Yet this is what the sovereign LORD says: “It will not take place, it will not happen, for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years, Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son. If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.”’” Again, the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

Here ends the Reading.

**SECOND READING:** Galatians 4:4-6

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.”

Here ends the Reading.

Please rise out of respect for the words and ministry of Jesus Christ.

**The Holy Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Here ends the Reading.

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God; the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING | TREASURE BOX**

**OFFERING SONG:** Who You Say We Are © Steven Curtis Chapman

**Verse 1**

Oh how great is the love The Father has lavished on us  
That we should be called the children of God  
Oh how great was the cost The Father was willing to pay  
So we could be called the children of God

**Pre-Chorus 1**

And all that we can say is thank You, thank You  
And all that we can say is thank You, thank You

**Chorus 1**

We are Your sons we are Your daughters Hallelujah we are who You say we are  
So we lift our hands and cry Abba Father

Hallelujah we are who You say we are Hallelujah we are who You say we are

### Verse 2

Oh how great is Your amazing grace That took us as orphans and slaves  
And made us Your heirs and gave us Your name

There's nothing more that we could ever do You finished it all on the cross  
And rose from the grave and brought us with You

### Pre-Chorus 1

And all that we can say is thank You, thank You  
And all that we can say is thank You, thank You

### Chorus 1

We are Your sons we are Your daughters Hallelujah we are who You say we are  
So we lift our hands and cry Abba Father

Hallelujah we are who You say we are Hallelujah we are who You say we are

### Pre-Chorus 1

And all that we can say is thank You, thank You  
And all that we can say is thank You, thank You

### Pre-chorus 2

And all that we can say is thank You, thank You Jesus  
And all that we can say is thank You, thank You

### Chorus 2

We are Your sons we are Your daughters Hallelujah we are who You say we are  
So we lift our hands and cry Abba Father Hallelujah we are who You say we are

### Chorus 1

We are Your sons we are Your daughters Hallelujah we are who You say we are  
So we lift our hands and cry Abba Father

Hallelujah we are who You say we are Hallelujah we are who You say we are

### End Tag

Hallelujah we are who You say we are

CCLI Song # 7052891 Steven Curtis Chapman © 2015 Be Essential Songs (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)  
Who You Say Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

## PRA YERS OF THE CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

**COMMUNION SONG:** Midnight Clear (Love Song) Tomlin | Cash | Myrin

### Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing

### Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats Through all the weary world  
And man at war with man hears not The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise and cease the strife And hear the angels sing

### Chorus

Glory to God in the highest Glory to God evermore  
Good news great joy for all  
Melody breaks through the silence Christ the Savior is born  
Jesus the love song of God

### Chorus

Glory to God in the highest Glory to God evermore  
Good news great joy for all  
Melody breaks through the silence Christ the Savior is born  
Jesus the love song of God

**End Tag**

Jesus the love song of God

CCLI Song # 7050418

**COMMUNION SONG:** “God With Us” All Sons and Daughters

**Verse 1**

Oh You’ve come To bring peace To be love To be nearer to us  
You have come To bring life To be light To shine brighter in us  
Oh, Emmanuel God with us

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior In Your presence we find our strength  
Over everything Our redemption God with us You are God with us

**Verse 2**

Oh You’ve come To be hope To this world For Your honor and name  
Oh You’ve come To take sin To bear shame And to conquer the grave  
Oh, Emmanuel God with us

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior In Your presence we find our strength  
Over everything Our redemption God with us You are God with us

**Bridge**

You are here You are holy We are standing In Your glory  
You are here You are holy We are standing In Your glory  
You are here You are holy We are standing In Your glory  
You are here You are holy We are standing In Your glory Lord

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior In Your presence we find our strength  
Over everything Our redemption God with us You are God with us

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior In Your presence we find our strength  
Over everything Our redemption God with us You are God with us  
Oh God with us, You are God with us

**DISMISSAL of the COMMUNICANTS and PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG:** God So Loved A Bergthold | E Cash | F Cash | M Cash | S Cash

**Verse 1**

Come all you weary Come all you thirsty  
Come to the well that never runs dry  
Drink of the water Come and thirst no more

**Verse 2**

Come all you sinners Come find His mercy  
Come to the table He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness Find what you're looking for

**Chorus 1**

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

**Verse 3**

Bring all your failures Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there With open arms

**Chorus 2**

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever  
The power of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved God so loved the world

**Bridge**

Praise God praise God From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him praise Him For the wonders of His love

**Bridge**

Praise God praise God From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him praise Him For the wonders of His love

**Chorus 3**

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save

**Chorus 2**

For God so loved the world that He gave us  
His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever  
The power of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved God so loved the world

**Ending**

Bring all your failures Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting God so loved the world

CCLI Song # 7138599

**SEND OFF**

Leader: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out, strengthening the saved,

**All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!**