

**FOURTH SUNDAY in ADVENT**

**Who Is Jesus?**

**“Jesus is the Son of Mary”**

**December 22, 2024**

**8:00 am**



Zion Lutheran Church  
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# **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

## **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!

## **WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GREET ONE ANOTHER**

**OPENING HYMN:** LSB 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry  
(verses 1-3)

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
  
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
  
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

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: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pastor: We come humbly before You, O Lord, recognizing that we have not always responded to Your grace in faithfulness and obedience. Often, we feel we deserve more or better, forgetting and rejecting Your Word and Your works of salvation.

People: **At times, we are lured by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded in Your Word. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporal treasures on earth instead of the eternal treasures of heaven.**

Pastor: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

People: **Forgive my impatience and my neglect. By Your Spirit, lead me to greater faith, obedience,**

**service, and repentance until Your call to eternal glory comes.**

**Pastor:** Our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done—He has given us solid promises that guard our faith in days of sorrow, suffering, confusion, conflict, and pain. He has sent His Son to be the Word of life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and through the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

**HYMN:** LSB 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (verses 4-5)

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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## **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray together.

**All:** **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. Amen.**

**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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**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.*”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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

**RESPONSE**

**People (Sing): Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

**People (sing): Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**People (sing): Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON HYMN:** LSB 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
    Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
    To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
    Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
    Who have found His favor.
  
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,  
    Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
    Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
    Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
    All the hills were ringing.
  
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
    Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
    But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
    Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth;  
    Hail the King of glory!



## **THE SERMON**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** (Tune: “Away in a Manger”)

Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive  
Their being and blessing, in You we believe.  
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,  
Provider and Father, our trust is in You.

And You, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,  
True Son of the Father, by angels adored;  
Redeemer incarnate, You paid for our sins,  
And, joined in Your rising, our new life begins.

Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,  
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;  
You call us, You cleanse us, You open our eyes,  
You keep us in peace, You restore paradise.

## **OFFERING | TREASURE BOX**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM** “A Wintery Noel”

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

### **CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain

ref Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain

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## **SEND OFF**

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

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