



Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 8, 2024

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God's grace is for us.
We wonder if God can really do all the work.

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God is for us.
We are focused on getting everything accomplished by a deadline.

During this season of Wonder, let us remember that God, in love, brought salvation to us. **God's grace is for us.**

HYMN #246 — *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!*

ADVENT WREATH

God sent a messenger to prepare our way to grace.
God is preparing us for grace.

God spoke through prophets to prepare the way.
God is preparing us for grace.

God is the one preparing us for grace.
Prepare us even now.

We light the second candle to declare to everyone that God prepares us for Grace.

HYMN #239 — *Hark, The Glad Sound* [VERSE 2]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Holy God, you gather us together as your people. Help us! Remind us of your grace and mercy. Help us each day to see your grace-filled beginnings. Hear us as we confess you:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination.

For times when we fail to recognize that your grace is for us.

Forgive us.

For days when we forget that you not only love us, but also that you love all people.

Forgive us.

For the days when we fail to share your love and grace.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone tell theirs.

Forgive us.

For the times we exclude people from the community into which you draw us.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to follow you.

Forgive us.

Dear friends, God is at work in our lives though it might be difficult to see some days. God's grace will continually claim, restore, and remind us once again that we are loved. In the name of Jesus \dagger your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to love. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all people of the world knowledge of your salvation; prepare each of us to receive your grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

W O R D

FIRST READING — *Malachi 3:1-4*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

SECOND READING — *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the

first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

GOSPEL — *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

— *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* ~ Bailey DeFere, flute [8 AM]

— *Advent Celebration* ~ Zion Choir [10:30 AM]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #249 — *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God's grace is for us. **Receive our prayer.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace, you draw us together as the body of Christ and sustain us by your Holy Spirit. Lead us out of darkness and into the light, where we can clearly see the gifts you have given us. We praise you with our time, talents and treasures, holding fast to your promise that your grace, given to us through the power of your Son, Jesus Christ, is for us. Amen.

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM]

— *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* ~ Bailey DeFere, flute [8 AM]

— *Light of Peace* ~ Zion Choir [10:30 AM]

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God, we give you thanks for this meal of Grace, where you pull us together to receive the bountiful blessings of your love. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift of faith as we look to the one, we find the manger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #266 — *All Earth is Hopeful*

DISMISSAL

Journey to the manger. Where God's grace is found.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

*Christ
is Coming!*



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

