



First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 1, 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 #438 — *My Lord, What a Morning*

ADVENT WREATH

God says I will keep my promises.
God's grace is for us.

God is for our righteousness.
God's grace is for us.

We light the first candle to declare to everyone that God's grace is for us.

HYMN #239 — *Hark, The Glad Sound* [VERSE 1]

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. **Forgive us.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You, O God, work through grace-filled beginnings. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us to your grace. In all things, help us to know that your grace is for us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING — *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

SECOND READING — *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL — *Luke 21:25-36*

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC — Joyful Ringers [10:30 AM]

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #436 — *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

THE OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC — Joyful Ringers [10:30 AM]

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

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 #244 — *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

