



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

***Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*, arr. P. Manz**

One License #10-100.5

***My Lord What a Morning*, arr. R. Lau**

One License #243627

WELCOME

ADVENT HYMN

***Christ, Be Our Light* RED ELW #715
(Vs. 1)**

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain

**Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light RED ELW #715
(Refrain)

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

- 1** Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.
- 3** Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put

on the armor of light;¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia RED ELW page 174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

One License #81515

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,]³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark,³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn RED ELW #242
(Vs. 1 & 4)

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

THE PEACE

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

Prelude on Veni Emmanuel, arr. C. Callahan

One License #10-001-10

OFFERING HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own RED ELW #686

(Vs. 1)

**1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Public Domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

My Lord, What a Morning RED ELW #438
(Vs. 1)

Refrain

**My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.**

**1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual
One License #09223 & Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today There Is Ringing, arr. G.W. Cassler

One License #96189

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier, Deb Otto and Marlene Fure

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of November is designated to Feed My Starving Children

Nativity Set Stroll

We need the Lift Team (and anyone else who can help) on Wednesday, December 3 at 1:00pm to move chairs and tables for the Nativity Stroll. Please bring nativities to display to the church basement between 3p-6p on Thursday, December 4. You can set up your nativities or we can set up for you.

EVERYONE! Bring friends and family to Zion basement on Saturday, December 6 from 10a-5p and/or Sunday, December 7 from 10a-1p for the Nativity Stroll. See the display of nativities and have a bite to eat. All proceeds go to the Parking Lot Fund.

Elephant Joe's Coffee—We still have Elephant Joe's coffee for purchase. Christmas is coming. Great gifts!

ZCW Thankoffering—This envelope with your donation may be placed in the specially marked basket in the narthex, may be mailed to the church office or may be dropped off at the church office and slid under the secretary door on or before December 1, 2025.

Adopt-A-Family and Minnesota Valley Action Council—Starting on Sunday, November 30, you can draw a name off of the list provided by MVAC. You will be given the age and a couple of ideas what that person would like as a present. This is all done anonymously. The wrapped presents with the first name of the person should be brought to church by Wednesday, December 10. Thank you very much for participating in this program. It's a good way to spread our Christian love at Christmas, if you have any questions or unable to sign up today, you can call Mary Lietz at 612-756-1871.

Arli-Dazzle Parade—we are looking for parade walkers both young and old (Angels & Shepherds). Also for donations of parade candy. Parade candy can be placed in the basket in the Narthex.

Christmas Pictures—We would love to see your family's Christmas Card. Please share a copy with the church office by email or place the picture in Stacy's door mailbox and it will be returned to you. The pictures will be added to the announcement slides that are shown before the worship service.

New Member Sunday—Sunday, December 21—See Pastor Gretchen.

Directory Updates—Please get any updates including physical address, mailing address, phone number or email address to Stacy. We are starting to look ahead to the Annual Report.

Nominating Committee—is still looking for a council secretary, two for the nominating committee and a Sunday School Superintendent. Please consider serving on one of these positions. See Larry Gieseke, Joe Prasad, Nancy Mathwig, Wendy Kube, Jane Scharpe or Pr. Gretchen.

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of November 30

Tuesday, December 2—11a-5p

Wednesday, December 3—2:30p—4p

Thursday, December 4—11a-1p and 4p-6p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

November 30

Ushers: Larry & Pam Schiroo
Mark & Lisa Strobel
Greeter: Larry Klunder
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
Reader: Cindy Quast
Organist: Bobette Schauer
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Paraments: Jan Wark &
Diane Ebersviller

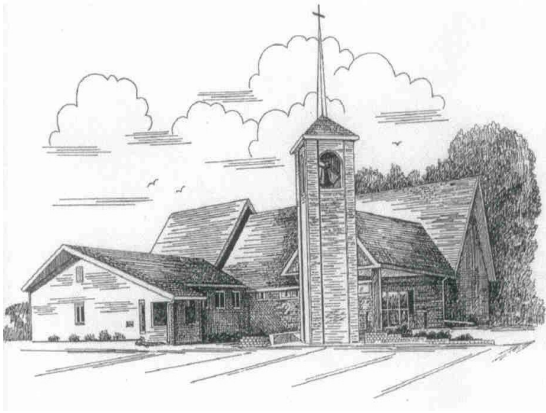
December 7

Usher: Jane Scharpe, Dave Breyer
John & Lana Woehler
Greeter: Peg Kamps & Adilyn
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Janet Rowe
Altar Guild: Larry & Pam Schiroo
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &
Elton Hazelwood
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe
Paraments: Larry Gieseke

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Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

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YouTube at
www.youtube.com
Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN
www.zionarlington.org
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Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, November 30	8:15a 9:00a 10:00a	Zion Choir Rehearsal Worship Sunday School
Tuesday, December 2	6:00p	Beer & Carols @ EJ's
Thursday, December 4	10:00a 3:00p 6:30p	Adult Bible Study Nativity Stroll Set Up Committee Night
Saturday, December 6	10a-5p	Nativity Stroll Arli-Dazzle
Sunday, December 7	8:15a 9:00a 10:00a 10a-1p	Zion Choir Rehearsal Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School Nativity Stroll

