



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Children of the Heavenly Father

Arr. Melvin Rotermund

One License #AF20210741

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Arr. Paul Manz

One License #10-002-01

Hark the Glad Sound

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

One License #93544

WELCOME

ADVENT HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light RED ELW #715

(Vs. 2)

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

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

Emmilia Wark

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the
universe.
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the
Lord's way
for the kingdom of heaven is near.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.
Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

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

Refrain

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

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God,
to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BAPTISMAL SONG

Children of the Heavenly Father RED ELW #781
(Vs. 1)

BAPTISM—Weston Nelford Fredin

RED ELW page 227

BAPTISMAL SONG

Children of the Heavenly Father RED ELW #781
(Vs. 3)

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,
“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia RED ELW page 174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

One License #81515

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise

up children to Abraham.¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry RED ELW #249
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 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.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite
Public Domain

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

In the Bleak Midwinter

Arr. David Cherwien

One License #997517

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.

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY HOLY HOLY

RED ELW page 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION

(Zion practices an open table. God welcomes everyone to come forward. Young children may receive bread and a blessing. If you prefer not to receive, fold your hands and receive a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please ask your servers. Come to the Lord's table and share in the feast!)

LAMB OF GOD

RED ELW page 146

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Once He Came in Blessing

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

One License #10-004-03

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

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

Hark the Glad Sound RED ELW #239

(Vs. 1 & 4)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Arr. Paul Manz

One License #90472



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Account #73982207—6/30/2025

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!

Today we welcome Weston Nelford Fredin into God's family. Weston's parents are Alex & Katie and his sponsors are Andrew Fredin and Deserie Rendulich.

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

Nativity Set Stroll

Please join us in the basement on Sunday, December 7 to view the nativity sets and for coffee & treats.

A free will donation is requested - proceeds going to the Zion Parking Lot Fund.

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

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.

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—thank you to everyone who participated in the Arli-Dazzle Parade.

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.

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Worship Assistants

December 7

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

December 14

Usher: Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
Wayne & Ann Werner
Greeter: Larry & Pam Schiroo
Acolyte: Alice Foss
Reader: Jane Scharpe
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Wayne & Ann Werner
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe
Parameters: Larry Gieseke

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of December 7

Tuesday, December 9—2:30p-5p

Wednesday, December 10—2p-5p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, December 7	8:15a	Zion Choir Rehearsal
	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:00a	Sunday School
	10a-1p	Nativity Set Stroll
Wednesday, December 10	12:00p	ZCW Potluck
	7:00p	Church Council
Thursday, December 11	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, December 14	8:15a	Zion Choir Rehearsal
	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
		Sunday School Christmas Program

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

