



Zion Lutheran Church – LCMS  
20-141 County Road X – P.O. Box 37 – Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555  
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: zionrco@bright.net  
Education Hour 8:45 AM - Divine Worship 10:00 AM  
Communion First and Third Sundays  
Rev. Dr. Carl Rockrohr, Pastor  
Phone: (419)267-3429 Email: pastor.zionrco@bright.net

Wednesday, December 9, 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in Advent

Prelude  
Tower Bells and Welcome  
Announcements

SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING

Opening Hymn

*Lift Up Your Heads*

LSB 340

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.

OPENING VERSICLES FOR ADVENT (*Congregation Stands*)

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

**C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Make His paths straight.**

P Shower, O heaven, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

**C Let the earth open, that salvation may spout forth.**

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-7

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

Matthew 1:18-25 (*Stand*)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God**

RESPONSORY (*Remain standing*)

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

APOSTLES' CREED (*Remain standing*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Notes about the sermons of Luther from "Martin Luther: Shaping and Defining the Reformation 1521-1532" by Martin Brecht, p. 131:

Luther's first hymns were published in separate printings in 1523. Among them certainly was "Dear Christians, Let Us Now Rejoice," one of his most masterful creations... In it, Luther was able to combine three levels. The first stanzas appear to be a personal testimony... He then connected his personal fate with nothing less than the cosmic salvation planed by God from all eternity through the incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, who, at the end, as the enthroned one, warns the faithful against the ordinances of men that are incompatible with the treasure of salvation. This Christological centering is characteristic of many of Luther's hymns."

SERMON – “In Every Age and Condition God’s People Are Preparing for Jesus”

A. Common Theme in Luther’s Hymns

B. Isaiah and Matthew Readings Emphasize Jesus Who Brings Hope and Salvation

C. Our Hymn From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Vs 1-6

Vs 7-11

Vs 12-15

SERMON HYMN

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (vs 1-6)*

**LSB 358**

1 "From heav'n above to earth I come  
to bear good news to ev'ry home:  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 "To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

4 "He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.

5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.

Collect for God’s Word Among Us *Congregation Stands*

**C Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C Amen.**

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, thou You created all,  
How weak You are, so poor and small,  
That You should choose to lay Your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see  
this simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth

Silent Prayer, Extinguish Candles

Postlude

Depart in His Peace

Acknowledgments Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.