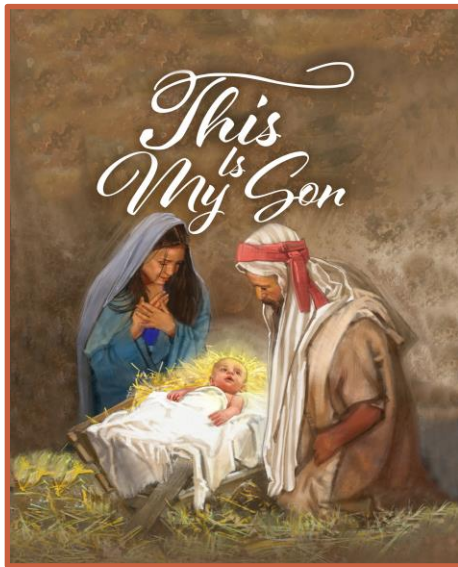


# Zion Lutheran Church



December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Third Mid-Week Advent Service

## **ABSALOM**

Who is the son of David? Just like Adam and Eve and Abram and Sarai, so also David received a promise from God. The Lord's promise for King David was that his house and kingdom would be established forever. But this promise seems to be in jeopardy when David's son Absalom rebels against his own father. In the end, however, this disobedient prince dies, hanging from a tree. Yes, God would indeed establish David's reign, but it would be through Jesus, the greater Son, who is obedient to the will of His Father in heaven. This Prince of Peace dies by hanging nailed to the tree of the cross so we can be restored as sons and daughters of the King of kings.

**Opening Hymn (7:00 PM only) – Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come #350**

**Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**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.**

**Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

**Opening Sentences**

*Psalm 146:3–5*

**P** Put not your trust in princes,

**C** **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

**P** When his breath departs

**C** **he returns to the earth;**

**P** on that very day

**C** **his plans perish.**

**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** All those who await His appearance pray:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** The whole creation pleads:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Awaiting the Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:

- C** Come, Lord Jesus.
- 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. Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**
- P** Put not your trust in princes,
- C** **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

+ READINGS +

**First Reading – 2 Samuel 18:24–33**

Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer. The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news." The watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man and comes with good news."

Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was." And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered,

"May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man." And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading – Ephesians 5:1–10**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsory for Advent**

**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** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**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.

### **Sermon Hymn (7:00 PM only) – In This Precious Baby Boy**

In this precious baby boy,  
We are given peace and joy.  
By the Spirit, hope is won—  
Mary bore the Father's Son.  
Son of God and Son of Man:  
He fulfills the holy plan.

God's own children, we have strayed,  
Constantly have disobeyed  
In the garden, in the sand,  
Through the river, in the Land.  
But the Child who takes our place  
Bears the cross to earn us grace.

Through this baby in the hay,  
God has given us the Way  
To inherit life above,  
Rescued by His perfect love.  
In this Child, we all may be  
Children of eternity.

**Sermon**

+ Prayer +

**Kyrie**

- C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

+ LITANY +

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here

present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For [*additional prayer bids may be inserted here*] let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Alleluia.**

### Lord's Prayer

**C 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.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples



and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **Distribution**

*If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.*

### **Collects**

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C** **And let my cry come to You.**

**P** God our Father, You sent the true Son of David, Your only Son, to become a curse for us by hanging Him from the tree of the cross. By the sacrifice of His flesh, He has opened the way to eternal life through the forgiveness of our sins. As we have been baptized into His death, strengthen our faith always as heirs of Your heavenly kingdom; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### **Benedicamus**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

**P** During this season of Advent, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." True Son of Adam,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** True Son of Abraham,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** True Son of David,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** True Son of God,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** True Son of Man,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** That we might receive adoption as sons,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## Benediction

**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

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

**C** **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn (7:00 PM) -- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #357**

