

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDE

Detroit
Voluntary

Wilbur Held
John Stanley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.
We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.
Your name is great and your heart is kind.
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.

And on that day when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come;
still my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul, O my soul;
worship his holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship your holy name.
I'll worship your holy name.

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

Loving heavenly Father, it is by your mercy that we are redeemed. Help us always to remember that you have forgiven and accepted us only because of Christ, and not because of ourselves or anything that we have done. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13

(read responsively)

- ¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
- ⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Lord Almighty Reigns

by Terry Butler

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord reigns.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord Almighty reigns.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord reigns.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord Almighty reigns.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

SONG OF THE DAY

Redeemer, Savior, Friend

I know You had me on Your mind when You climbed up on that hill;
For You saw me with eternal eyes, while I was yet in sin;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Ev'ry stripe upon Your battered back, ev'ry thorn that pierced Your brow;
And ev'ry nail drove deep through guiltless hands
Said that Your love knows no end;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

So the grace You've poured upon my life, will return to You in praise;
And I'll gladly lay down all my crowns,
For the name by which I'm saved;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.
Redeemer, Savior, Friend,
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition: O God, in your mercy, **hear us and help us.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving that has continued during this time! Ministry at this time depends on regular giving. If you would like to give online now, you can use this QR code scanner on your smart phone to be directed to the Giving page on our website. You can also mail your offerings in to the church.



OFFERING SONG

Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one, may go free?
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.
And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected;
But, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come, wash your guilt away, live again.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our community and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave 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.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken,
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your spirit lives within me
Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be?
That You my king would die for me.
Amazing love, I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor you.
Amazing love, how can it be?
That You my king would die for me.
Amazing love, I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor you.
In all I do, I honor you.

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken,
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
I'm alive and well, Your spirit lives within me
Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be
That You my king would die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor you.
Amazing love, how can it be
That You my king would die for me.
Amazing love, I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor you.
In all I do, I honor you.

You are my King.
You are my King.
Jesus You are my King.
Jesus You are my King.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Christ is with you! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Lobt Gott; ihr Christen

Johann Walther

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Pastoral Assistant Saundra Anderson
Mike Bretsch, lector
Sonya Kempf, organist
Stacy Geffre, vocals
Kara Pies, vocals
Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

ANNOUNCEMENTS BELOW

Prayers

As a community of faith in Christ, we are connected through joy, sorrow, worship, and prayer. Please pray for the people listed below.

As we are praying for all members of Zion, this week we pray especially for God's comfort, healing, protection, strength, and peace to be with:

Mary Kost

Those with ongoing concerns:

Joyce Mentzer

Tammy Paulsen

Hilda Hoffman (at Angelhaus)

Howard Nelson (at Angelhaus)

Duane Wagemann

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Shane Schauer at the death of his father, Ronald.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Curt Suedmeier at his death. Curt will be missed dearly as he was always a helping hand at Zion.

Announcements

A FUNDRAISER FOR TAMMY PAULSEN has been set up to help with costs related to her cancer treatment. You can give to this fund online at bit.ly/Tammystrong. Or you can give by bringing your cash or check donation to the church—make checks out to "Zion Lutheran Church" with "Tammy Paulsen fund" in the memo line.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS! We are in need of...

- **Sound board operators for 8:30 service**—No experience necessary; we will train you! The commitment would be one Sunday per month.
- **Scripture readers either in the sanctuary at 8:30 OR on video**—you can take the video yourself at home or come to the church during the week and have Sandra video record you OR Sandra can come to your home for an outdoor video recording of you reading the Sunday scriptures.

Let the church office known (225-6755) if you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities.

WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE

Our next "Come and Go" Communion service will be Wednesday, September 16 from 5:00-7:00 PM.



THE SPECIAL OFFERING for September is Safe Harbor

Originally formed in 1977, Safe Harbor began as a volunteer phone service providing information to women.

Today Safe Harbor serves women, men and children by providing shelter and resources for making positive life choices. We serve northeastern South Dakota including Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Marshall, McPherson and Potter counties.



Our mission is to empower individuals in abusive situations by providing advocacy and support services; to educate and motivate the community to be proactive in eliminating abuse. To fulfill our mission we offer the following:

- Safety and comfort
- Confidentiality
- Non-judgement support
- Advocacy
- Community Education

For more information about the work of Safe Harbor, please visit:

<https://safeharborsd.org/>

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIP NEEDED—Our radio broadcast ministry is more important than ever. Would you consider donating either the whole cost of half the cost of a Sunday broadcast? A whole Sunday service is \$110.00 and half is \$55.00. You are welcome to donate in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion to support this ministry. To sign up for a broadcast, contact the church office at 225-6755. We have several openings for the coming weeks, so please consider a sponsorship if you are able.

JOIN US FOR FAITH FORMATION KICKOFF—Sunday, September 20th at 9:45 am

- Outdoor Sunday School kick-off in the north parking lot
 - Station rotation and music time
 - An explanation of the Sunday School year will be given
 - Sunday School registration for three-year-olds through 5th grade
- Confirmation information handout
- Presentation of Bibles to three-year-olds and 3rd graders

11TH GRADE CONFIRMATION MEETING—TODAY (September 13th) at 5:00 pm at Melgaard Park Shelter A; 11th graders and parents will be meeting to plan your confirmation service and wrap up any loose ends from your 10th grade confirmation year. Confirmation Sunday has been rescheduled from the spring to October 25th. Pastor Erin will bring ice cream bars!

FALL INTO FALL FAMILY NIGHT—Join us at Melgaard Park on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm for an evening of safely-distanced food and fellowship. All congregational members are welcome. Meet at Shelter A; bring your own supper. A grill will be available to make hotdogs or s'mores. First Communion families will meet after supper to finish our classes that got interrupted in the spring.

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