

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

Invitation

Elaine Schram

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

Made to Worship

Zion Praise Band

Before the day, before the light.
Before the world revolved around the sun.
God on high stepped down into time
And wrote the story of his love for everyone.
He has filled our hearts with wonder.
So that we always remember;

You and i were made to worship
You and i are called to love.
You and i are forgiven and free.
When you and i embrace surrender,
When you and i choose to believe
Then you and i will see, who we were meant to be.

All we are, and all we have.
Is all a gift from god that we receive.
Brought to life we open our eyes,
To see the majesty and glory of the king.
He has filled our hearts with wonder.
So that we always remember;

You and i were made to worship
You and i are called to love.
You and i are forgiven and free.
When you and i embrace surrender,
When you and i choose to believe
Then you and i will see, who we were meant to be.

Even the rocks cry out,
Even the heavens shout,
At the sound of his holy name.
So let every voice sing out
Let every knee bow down
He's worthy of all our praise

You and i were made to worship
You and i are called to love.
You and i are forgiven and free.
When you and i embrace surrender,
When you and i choose to believe
Then you and i will see, who we were meant to be.

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 and righteous God, you are far more generous to us, and to all who work in your kingdom, than we desire or deserve. Make us generous to others as you have been to us. 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

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

The Message

¹⁰ God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.

¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, "God! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!

³ "So, God, if you won't kill them, kill *me*! I'm better off dead!"

⁴ God said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

⁵ But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ God arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk. Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸ But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: "I'm better off dead!"

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?"

Jonah said, "Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!"

¹⁰⁻¹¹ God said, "What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"

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

PSALM

Psalms 145:1-8

(read responsively)

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do

what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

SONG OF THE DAY

Your Love is Amazing

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
And every time I see You all Your goodness shines through,
And I feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

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

Great is the Lord

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice:
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

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*Ancient of Days*

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Be unto the Ancient of Days.
From every nation, all of creation,
Bow before the Ancient of Days.

Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare your glory.
Every knee shall bow at your throne, in worship.
You will be exalted, oh God
And your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days.

Blessing and honor, glory and power,
Be unto the Ancient of Days.
From every nation, all of creation,
Bow before the Ancient of Days.

Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare your glory.
Every knee shall bow at your throne, in worship.
You will be exalted, oh God
And your kingdom shall not pass away
O Ancient of Days

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth,
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to matchless worth.
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth,
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to matchless worth.
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth,
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none can compare to matchless worth.
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Recessionale

David Paxton

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

Phyllis Gab, lector

Sue Gates, prelude and postlude pianist

Stacy Geffre, vocalist

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Kara Pies, vocalist

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:

Those with ongoing concerns:

Joyce Mentzer

Tammy Paulsen

Hilda Hoffman

Howard Nelson (at Angelhaus)

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Lois Sollie at the death of her brother, LeRoy Friedrichsen.

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 know (225-6755) if you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities.

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 remainder of the year, 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

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.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND—We are starting to run low on funds to help our neighbors who contact us for emergency assistance. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please indicate that your gift is for the “Good Samaritan Fund”.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION—will begin on Wednesday, October 7th and will be held online. Families, stay tuned for more details!

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