

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRELUDE

Christians, We Have Met to Worship

William Moore

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 *The Wonderful Cross*

When I survey the wonderful cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died.
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See from his head, his hands his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did ere such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small.
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross,
O the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your 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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The Message

⁷⁻⁹ "You, son of man, are the watchman. I've made you a watchman for Israel. The minute you hear a message from me, warn them. If I say to the wicked, 'Wicked man, wicked woman, you're on the fast track to death!' and you don't speak up and warn the wicked to change their ways, the wicked will die unwarned in their sins and I'll hold you responsible for their bloodshed. But if you warn the wicked to change their ways and they don't do it, they'll die in their sins well-warned and at least you will have saved your own life.

¹⁰ "Son of man, speak to Israel. Tell them, 'You've said, "Our rebellions and sins are weighing us down. We're wasting away. How can we go on living?"'

¹¹ "Tell them, 'As sure as I am the living God, I take no pleasure from the death of the wicked. I want the wicked to change their ways and live. Turn your life around! Reverse your evil ways! Why *die*, Israel?'

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

PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40

The Message

(read responsively)

God, teach me lessons for living
so I can stay the course.

**Give me insight so I can do what you tell me—
my whole life one long, obedient response.**

Guide me down the road of your commandments;
I love traveling this freeway!
**Give me a bent for your words of wisdom,
and not for piling up loot.**
Divert my eyes from toys and trinkets,
invigorate me on the pilgrim way.
**Affirm your promises to me—
promises made to all who fear you.**
Deflect the harsh words of my critics—
but what you say is always so good.
**See how hungry I am for your counsel;
preserve my life through your righteous ways!**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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: 15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Tim Sersen

SONG OF THE DAY *Grace Like Rain*

by Todd Agnew, Chris Collins, Edwin O. Excell, John Newton

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see so clearly.

And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away,
They're washed away.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away,
They're washed away.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing Your praise
Than when we first begun.

And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away,
They're washed away.

And hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me.
And hallelujah, all my stains are washed away,
They're washed away.

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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus 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

I Give You My Heart

by Reuben Morgan

This is my desire, to honor You.
Lord, with all my heart I worship You.
All I have within me, I give You praise.
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart.
I give You my soul.
I live for You alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord, have Your way in me.

This is my desire, to honor You.
Lord, with all my heart I worship You.
All I have within me, I give You praise.
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart.
I give You my soul.
I live for You alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord, have Your way in me.

Lord, I give You my heart.
I give You my soul.
I live for You alone.
Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake,
Lord, have Your way in me.

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 *Joyful, Joyful* by Henry van Dyke, Ludwig van Beethoven

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of Glory, Lord of Love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness.
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest.
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest.
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
All who live in love are thine.
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

William Bradbury

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Leading worship today:

Pastor Tim Sersen

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

Nancy Schmidt, lector

Sue Gates, pianist for prelude and postlude

Stacy Geffre, vocals

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Kara Pies, vocals

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

Curt Suedmeier

Those with ongoing concerns:

Joyce Mentzer

Tammy Paulsen

Hilda Hoffman (at Angelhaus)

Howard Nelson (at Angelhaus)

Duane Wagemann

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Gene Reich, who passed away earlier this week. His funeral was held at Zion on Thursday.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Susan Hooks at the death of her father, Leon Lassanke.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Monica Kuebler at her death. Monica's husband, Howard, was a lifelong member of Zion.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY of Lavonne Merkel at the death of her mother, Annie Olson.

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.

Zion Lutheran church
1732 S Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 225-6755
zion@nvc.net
www.zionlutheranaberdeen.org