

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

GATHERING

✠ *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.* ✠

PRELUDE *Partita on Ein feste Burg* **Andrew Clarke**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION *(please stand)*
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.** *(please be seated)*

GATHERING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* **ELW #504**

Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

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

Almighty God, gracious Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people.
Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations,
defend them against all their enemies, and give to your Church your saving peace;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

✠ *God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.* ✠

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46 (Chanted by Song Leader ~ Zach Anderson)

Refrain:
The waters of the river gladden the city of God,
The holy dwelling of the Most High.

- 1 God is for us a refuge and strength,
 An ever-present help in time of distress;
 So we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
 Though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea. *Refrain*
- 2 The waters of a river give joy to God’s city,
 The holy place, the dwelling of the Most High.
 God is within, it cannot be shaken;
 God will help it at the dawning of the day. *Refrain*
- 3 The Lord of hosts is with us:
 The God of Jacob is our stronghold.
 Come and behold the works of the Lord,
 The awesome deeds he has done on the earth. *Refrain*

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.


²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.


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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (please stand)

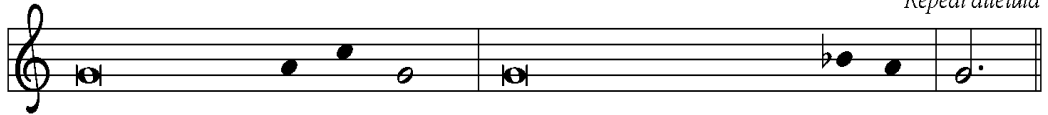
Acclamation sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glorify to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 8:31-36

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation

ELW #796

Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.

- 1
- How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2
- "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3
- "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4
- "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

APOSTLES' CREED *(please stand)*

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. *(please be seated)***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all those in need.

After each petition: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom
we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

Offering will not be taken during worship; a basket is available in the back of the sanctuary to drop off today's offering. As we continue to worship through the gift of radio and internet, we encourage you to consider giving a gift online at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving or by mail as you are able. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



OFFERING PRAYER

We bring you these gifts, O God, from what we have first received from you. Use them, we pray, to enable the ministries of this church to flourish as we together serve our neighbors, both near and far away, by showing love and doing mercy in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(please stand)*

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen. *(please be seated)*

SENDING HYMN ***Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*** **ELW #517**

Hymns sung by the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.

Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are Lord of lords alone; defend your holy church, that we may sing your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ***"Ein 'feste Burg"*** **Wilbur Held**

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Zion Lutheran Church

Rooted in Faith ✕ Growing in Spirit ✕ Reaching Out to Those in Need

Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor

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October 25, 2020

8:30 AM

Reformation Sunday

