

Please note that all hymns and liturgy will be sung by the cantor. Rather than singing along as is our custom, we encourage you to listen, follow along, and meditate on God's Word joined to the gift of music.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE *Nearer, My God, to Thee* Lowell Mason

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 One of Israel, the Word made flesh,
the Power of the Most High, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us, **you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; ☩ your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen. *(please be seated)*

GATHERING HYMN *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* **ELW #520**
Hymns sung the cantor(s); congregation is invited to listen and follow along.

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
 we have come again to hear you;
 let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 and in glowing faith be near you
 as the promises here given
 draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
 lie in deepest darkness shrouded
 till your Spirit breaks the night,
 filling us with light unclouded.
 All good thoughts and all good living
 come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
 Light of light from God proceeding,
 Jesus, send your blessed light;
 help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
 that our prayers and songs may please you,
 as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome.

May the grace and truth of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Great and loving God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus with authority to teach and to heal. Make us ready to listen to him in all our doubts and confusion, and to trust in him in all our troubles. For he 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said:

"If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

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

PSALM

Psalm 111

(read responsively)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

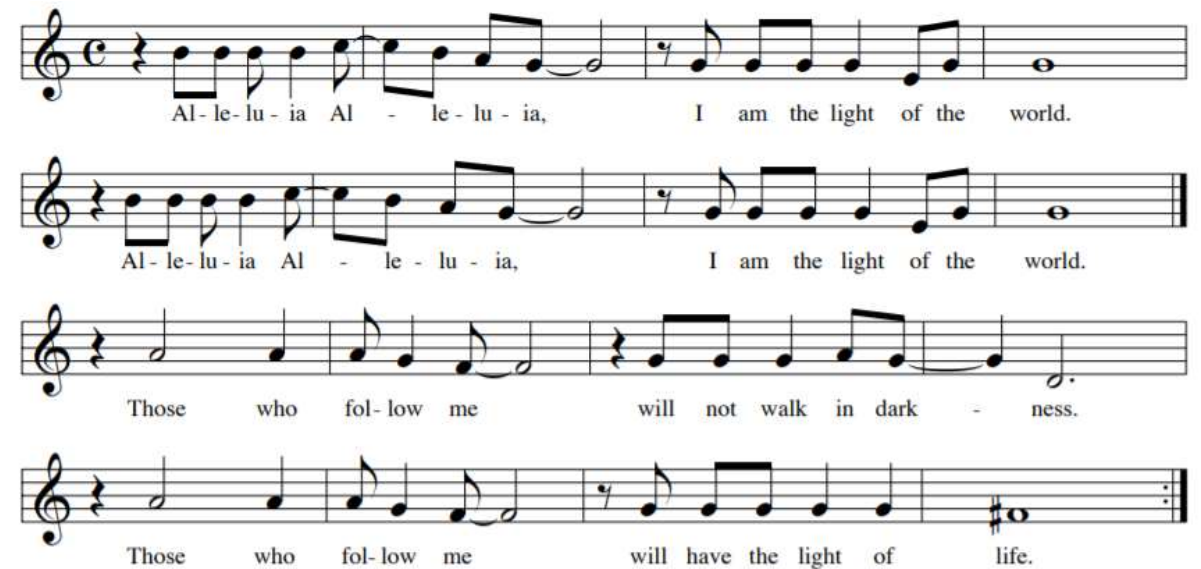
⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed.

¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*

Acclamation sung by cantor; congregation is invited to listen and follow along.



The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL **Mark 1:21-28**

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Praise to you, O Christ. *(please be seated)*

SERMON Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY *Rise, Shine, You People!* **ELW #665**

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.

7

4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

APOSTLES' CREED *(please stand)*
With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

8

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Prayer response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior. **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 SONG

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

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

Give thanks, with a grateful heart.

Give thanks, to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks, with a grateful heart.

Give thanks, to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong,"

Let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong,"

Let the poor say, "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks,

We give thanks,

We give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*

Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. By your grace, use these gifts to spread your name and salvation through our community and our world. We pray this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

May the God of glory dwell in you richly, call you beloved, and shine brightly on your path. The blessing of Almighty God - the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon and remain with you always. **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

SENDING HYMN

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

O God of Light

ELW #507

- 1
- O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
and show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
and guide our footsteps to the perfect day.
- 2
- From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled, you gently sought again,
and spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.
- 3
- Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
and questing spirits, longing for your healing,
see your compassion in the Savior's face.
- 4
- To all the world your summons you are sending,
through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
that myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

SENDING WORDS
Go in peace! Share the good news of Jesus Christ!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Mark Hayes

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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

1732 S Main Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-6755

January 31, 2021

8:30 AM

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.