

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
 zionlutheranaberdeem.org
 Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
 Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings
I Love to Tell the Story

John Carter
 Emma Lou Diemer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

Blessed be the Father, † and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures 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.

GATHERING SONG

Praise Adonai

Who is like Him, the Lion and the Lamb, seated on the throne?
 Mountains bow down, ev'ry ocean roars to the Lord of hosts.

Praise Adonai, from the rising of the sun
 Til the end of every day.
 Praise Adonai, all the nations of the earth,
 All the angels and the saints sing praise.

Who is like Him, the Lion and the Lamb, seated on the throne?
 Mountains bow down, ev'ry ocean roars to the Lord of hosts.

Praise Adonai, from the rising of the sun
 Til the end of every day.
 Praise Adonai, all the nations of the earth,
 All the angels and the saints sing...

Praise Adonai, from the rising of the sun
 Til the end of every day.
 Praise Adonai, all the nations of the earth,
 All the angels and the saints sing praise.

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

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your only Son as the word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim. 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.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,
mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

PSALM

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

(read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Larry Olson

Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia, I am the light of the world.

Al-le-lu-ia Al-le-lu-ia, I am the light of the world.

Those who fol-low me will not walk in dark-ness.

Those who fol-low me will have the light of life.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

SONG OF THE DAY

Hear Our Praises

May our home be filled with dancing.
 May our streets be filled with joy.
 May injustice bow to Jesus.
 As the people turn to pray.

From the mountains to the valley
 Hear our praises rise to You.
 From the heavens to the nations,
 Hear the singing fill the air.

May our light shine in the darkness
 As we walk before the cross.
 May Your glory fill the whole earth
 As the water o'er the seas.

From the mountains to the valley
 Hear our praises rise to You.
 From the heavens to the nations,
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APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us 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

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

Prayer response: Let us walk
 in the light of the Lord.

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

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

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 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.

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.**

SENDING SONG

Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
 We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
 Our God, You reign forever.
 Our hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God,
 The everlasting God,
 You do not faint,
 You won't grow weary.
 You're the defender of the weak,
 You comfort those in need
 You lift us up on wings, like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
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SENDING WORDS

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

POSTLUDE

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Edwin Childs

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

Kathy Heffernan, lector

Sonya Kempf, prelude and postlude

Stephanie Hawkinson, accompanist

Kara Pies, vocalist

Stacy Geffre, vocalist