

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Sixth Wednesday of Easter
zionlutheranaberndeen.org
Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Wednesday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

GATHERING MUSIC

Faithful Father

WELCOME

CONFESSING OUR SIN AND HEARING GOOD NEWS

We come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

We have sinned deeply and need your forgiveness. We have hurt you, those we love, our neighbors, and creation with things that we have done and things that we have left undone. We have lacked faith and have treated your promises as if they are nothing, putting our faith, instead, in other people and things. Create in us a new heart, forgive our sins, and return us to you with your deep well of life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear the good news that is for you:

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ and in his ✝ name, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. It is a gift that is for you no matter what. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

SONG

Rise Up and Praise Him

Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth be glad.
Let the people of God sing His praise all over the land.
Everyone in the valley come and lift your voice.
All those on the mountaintop, be glad and shout for joy.

Rise up and praise Him, He deserves our love.
Rise up and praise Him, worship the holy one.
With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might
Rise up and praise Him.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together:
O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

SCRIPTURE **John 15:9-17**

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.
¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

MESSAGE **Pastor Erin Heidelberger**

SONG *Friend of God*

Who am I that You are mindful of me?
That You hear me when I call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me?
How You love me, it's amazing. It's amazing.

I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
He calls me friend.

I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
He calls me friend.

Who am I that You are mindful of me?
That You hear me when I call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me?
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I am a friend of God.

I am a friend of God.
He calls me friend.

I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
He calls me friend.

God Almighty, Lord of Glory,
You have called me friend.
God Almighty, Lord of Glory,
You have called me friend.

I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
You call me friend.

I am a friend of God.
I am a friend of God.
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You call me friend.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

You are invited to sing with the Praise Band as they play Hope of All Creation before the prayers begin and at the conclusion of the prayers.

OFFERING

Offering will not be taken during worship; a basket is available in the back of the sanctuary to drop off today's offering. 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.



LORD'S PRAYER

We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life grant you faith to trust in Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SONG

Sing for Joy

If we call to Him, He will answer us.
If we run to Him, He will run to us.
If we lift our hands, He will lift us up.
Come now praise His name, all you saints of God.

Sing for joy to God our strength.
Sing for joy to God our strength.

Draw near to Him, He is here with us.
Give Him your love, He's in love with us.
He will heal our hearts, He will cleanse our hands,
If we rend our hearts, He will heal our land.

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SENDING WORDS

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

SENDING MUSIC

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