

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



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This Sunday'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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But when we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection.

Let us confess our sin to God our Father. Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Love Divine, All Love Excelling

ELW# 631

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.




1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

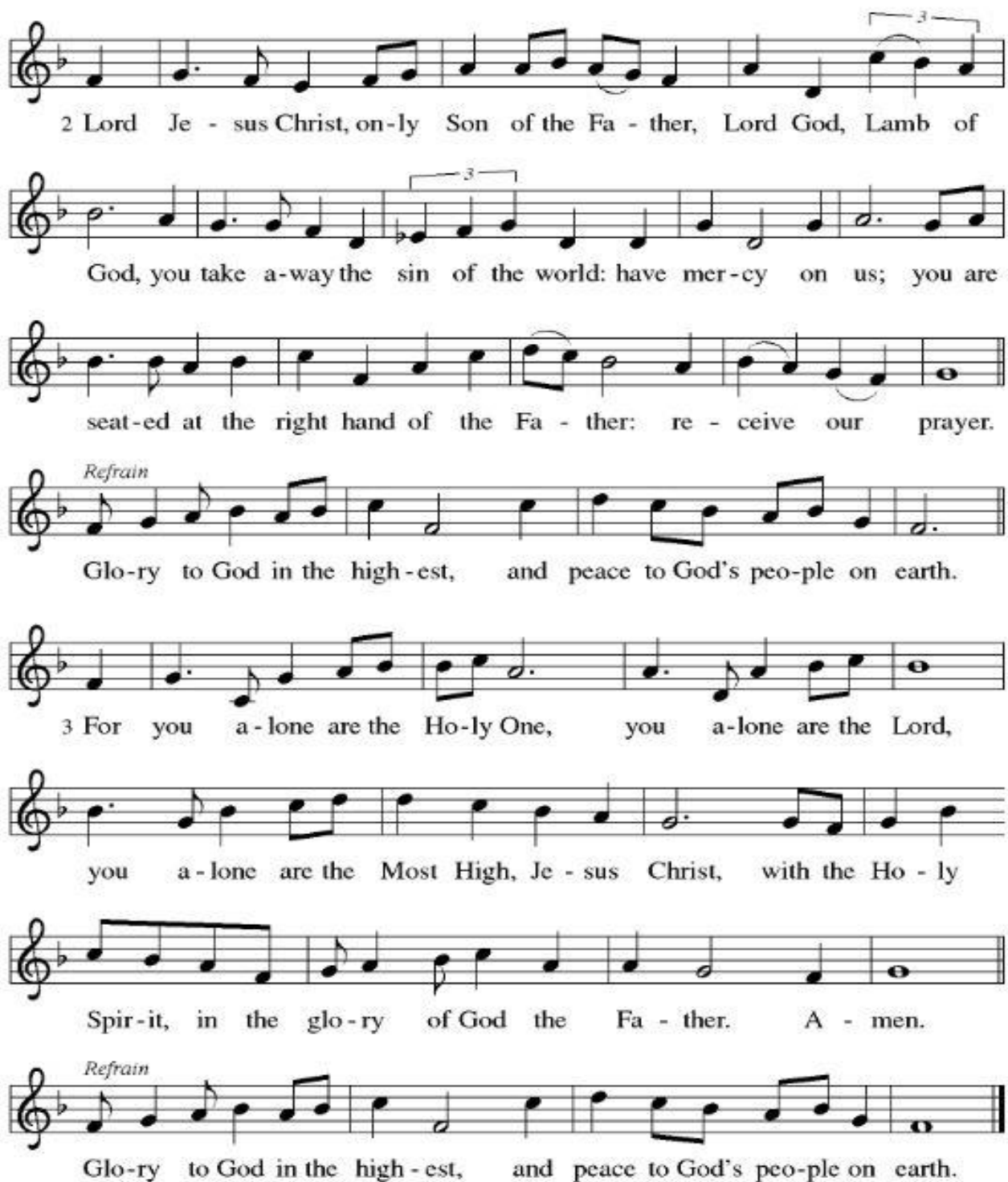


wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

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

PSALM

Psalm 98



All the ends of the earth have seen the sav - ing pow'r of God.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
For he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
Have brought salvation. *Refrain*
- 2 The Lord has made known his salvation,
Has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
And his truth for the house of Israel. *Refrain*
- 3 All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. *Refrain*
- 4 Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
With the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
Raise a shout before the King, the Lord. *Refrain*

SECOND READING **1 John 5:1-6**

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

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

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL **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.

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

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Are Called* ELW #720

- 1
- Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God. *Refrain*

Refrain:
We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.

- 2
- Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

- 3
- Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

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

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Prayer response: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through 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.



The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the “For Children Everywhere” box.

OFFERING MUSIC

Sue Gates, pianist

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, grant us your Holy Spirit that we might hear and share your promise of new life with all in need. **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

We 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 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.**

SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

ELW# 836

1 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.

- 2 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.
- 3 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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