

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
zionlutheranaberdeen.org
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel.
The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to
reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on
Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It's a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

GATHERING SONG

Your Love is Amazing

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me;
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,
All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
And every time I see You all Your goodness shines through,
And I feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.
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CONFESSING OUR SINS AND HEARING GOOD NEWS

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 us, redeems us, and calls us by name.
Amen.

Over and over we are told how simple life with God can be: trust, do good to others, take delight in the wonders God provides for us. But we simply have trouble living such a life. Let us confess the struggles we have, as we bring our prayers to God.

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

Together we pray:

In this season of light, Revealing God,
we find ourselves wandering in the shadows of the world.
In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing,
we hold tight to all those emotions—hatred, fear, worry—
which continue to damage us.
In these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings,
we confess it is easier to hear the words of sin.

Forgive us, Resurrecting God,
for trusting in promises which are short-lived,
rather than in your Word which endures forever.
You have sent Jesus before us so that,
as we follow him, we might travel from that far country
of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.

Rejoice in the good news, dear friends.
Salvation is from our ✝ God,
who restores us to new life.

God chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires;
God provides healing and hope to all.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!
Amen.

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Mercy

Mercy, mercy Lord,
Your mercy is how we are restored.
Mercy, O mercy Lord,
Help us to show Your mercy Lord.

You have been patient with our offenses.
You have forgiven all of our sins.
We were deserving only Your judgment,
But Your great mercy triumphed again.

Mercy, mercy Lord,
Your mercy is how we are restored.
Mercy, O mercy Lord,
Help us to show Your mercy Lord.

Lord, You have taught us, love one another.
As You have loved us, so we must love.
Always forbearing, always forgiving.
Showing to others the mercy we've known.

Mercy, mercy Lord,
Your mercy is how we are restored.
Mercy, O mercy Lord,
Help us to show Your mercy Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:
O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KID’S TIME **Pastoral Assistant Sandra**

SPECIAL MUSIC Zion Choir Ladies Group

FIRST READING **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.
⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there — since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

ALLELUIA

The Lord Almighty Reigns

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord reigns.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord Almighty reigns.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord reigns.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah the Lord Almighty reigns.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark Galbraith

SONG OF THE DAY

Lord Have Mercy

Jesus I've forgotten the words that You have spoken.
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom.
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on me.

I have built an altar where I worship things of man.
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from you.
Now I am returning to your mercies ever flowing.
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again.

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on me.

I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies.
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end.
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence.
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night.

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on me.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Jesus the Messiah. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Prayers of Intercession

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Offering will be taken during worship through the passing of the offering plates. 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

Offering

The sun cannot compare to the Glory of Your love.
There is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne.
Before the Holy One of Heaven.
It's only by Your blood.
And it's only through Your mercy.

Lord I come.
I bring an offering of worship to the King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due.
Oh Lord, I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the Glory of Your love.
There is no shadow in Your presence.
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Lord I come.
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Jesus may You receive the honor that You're due.
Oh Lord, I bring an offering to You.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:
Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God’s table. There is place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord’s Supper bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord’s Table.

Please come forward as directed by the ushers. We will commune one side of the sanctuary at a time. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please indicate to the server by raising your hand.

COMMUNION SONG

Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly,
That I, the guilty one, may go free?
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected;
But, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;
Come, wash your guilt away, live again.
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,
The Son of God giv'n for me;
My debt he pays and my death he dies,
That I might live, that I might live.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING

Grounded in God's love, we are sent out
to share abundance with those who have so little.

Blessed with ✠ Jesus' hope, we go forth
to fill the emptiness of those longing for justice.

Blessed with the Spirit's delight, we dance into the world
to take the hand of our sisters and brothers, and gather at the edge of living waters for the true food that gives life eternal. Amen.

SENDING SONG

This is the Day

This is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice and celebrate.
This is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice. I will rejoice and celebrate.

He goes before me. He goes before me.
He walks beside me. He walks beside me.
He lives within me. He's the lover of my soul.
He's my defender. He's my defender.
He's my provider. He's my provider.
His overflowing mercies are brand new evr'yday.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice and celebrate.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice. I will rejoice and celebrate.

He goes before me. He goes before me.
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This is the day that the Lord has made.
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This is the day that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice. I will rejoice and celebrate.
I will rejoice. I will rejoice and celebrate.

SENDING WORDS
Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE