

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
zionlutheranaberndeen.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.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* ELW #588

- 1
- There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2
- There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3
- For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.
- 4
- 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.

INVOCATION

*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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**


CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW, p. 148)

Assisting minister




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.


All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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

## FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup>Joseph 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.

<sup>4</sup>Then 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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So 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. <sup>9</sup>Hurry 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. <sup>10</sup>You 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. <sup>11</sup>I 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.' <sup>15</sup>And 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

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And 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. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

<sup>32</sup>If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If 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. <sup>35</sup>But 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. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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

**Pastor Mark Galbraith**

**ELW #581**

1 I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice.  
Be still and know I am here.

- 2 I am hope for all who are hopeless.  
I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.  
Come and rest in me. *Refrain*

*Refrain:*

Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me, I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.

- 3 I am strength for all the despairing,  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free,  
And all will know my name. *Refrain*

- 4 I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.  
Stand up, now walk and live! *Refrain*

## 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 CHURCH

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.

*Prayer response:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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, 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.

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

*All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "God's peace be with you" or similar words.*

#### 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](http://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 HYMN

#### *We are an Offering*

ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering,  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have,  
All that we are,  
All that we hope to be,  
We give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
We lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering,  
We are an offering.

#### 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 HYMN**

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

**ELW #599**

- 1
- Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free  
and make me pure within.
- 2
- Lord Jesus, think on me,  
by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be  
and taste your promised rest.
- 3
- Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point out your chosen way.
- 4
- Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share your joy at last.

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

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 HYMN**

*Oh! Praise the Gracious Power*

**ELW #651**

- 1
- Oh, praise the gracious pow'r  
that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith  
all strangers far and near:

*Refrain*  
We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!

- 2 Oh, praise persistent truth  
that opens fisted minds  
and eases from their anxious clutch  
the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, praise inclusive love,  
encircling ev'ry race,  
oblivious to gender, wealth,  
to social rank or place: *Refrain*
- 4 Oh, praise the word of faith  
that claims us as God's own,  
a living temple built on Christ,  
our rock and cornerstone: *Refrain*

#### **SENDING WORDS**

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

#### **POSTLUDE**