

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Third Sunday in Lent
zionlutheranaberdeen.org
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

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.

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

Holy One,
we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.

Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.
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

"That Priceless Grace"

ELW #591

- 1

That priceless grace, that priceless grace,
that priceless grace, which gave me life:
Jesus' life is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 2

That priceless blood, that priceless blood,
that priceless blood was shed for me:
Jesus' blood is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 3

That painful death, that painful death,
that painful death took sins away:
Jesus' death is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.
- 4

That precious word, that precious word,
that precious word, which brought me light:
Jesus' word is priceless grace.
That priceless grace is life for me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

KID'S TIME

Pastor Mark

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

- ¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
 and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
- ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- ¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.
- ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you

- 1 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5 Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayer response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of 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.

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 HYMN

“Lamb of God”

ELW #336

- 1
- Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But you have sent him from your side
To walk upon this guilty so
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

Refrain
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2
- Your gift of love we crucified.
We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

- 3
- I was so lost, I should have died,
But you have brought me to your side
To be led by your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:
Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

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

“Lenten Music”

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:

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
paternal, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”

ELW #863

- 1

My God, how wonderful thou art,
thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful thy mercy seat
in depths of burning light!
- 2

How wonderful, how beautiful
the sight of thee must be--
thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,
and awesome purity!
- 3

No earthly father loves like thee;
no mother, e'er so mild,
bears and forbears as thou hast done
with me, thy sinful child.
- 4

Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,
almighty as thou art,
for thou hast stooped to ask of me
the love of my poor heart.
- 5

My God, how wonderful thou art,
thou everlasting friend!
On thee I stay my trusting heart
till faith in vision end.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE