

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELW #606

- 2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

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

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

"Amazing Grace"

ELW #779

- 1
- Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
- 2
- 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3
- Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4
- The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5
- When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:
God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our
baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING

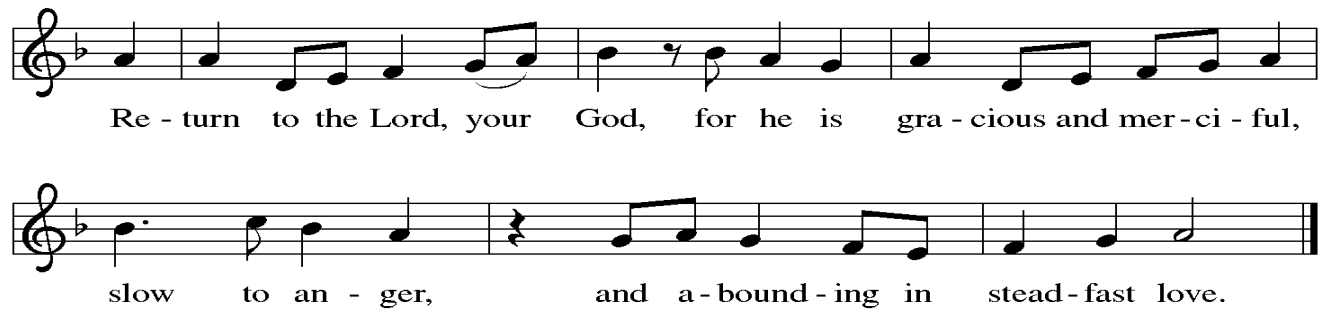
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

SERMON Pastor Mark Galbraith

HYMN OF THE DAY "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" ELW #324

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness

gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.

- 2 One the light of God's own presence
 on the ransomed people shed,
 chasing far the gloom and terror,
 bright'ning all the path we tread.
 One the object of our journey,
 one the faith which never tires,
 one the earnest looking forward,
 one the hope our God inspires.
- 3 One the strain that lips of thousands
 lift as from the heart of one;
 one the conflict, one the peril,
 one the march in God begun.
 One the gladness of rejoicing
 on the far eternal shore,
 where the one almighty Father
 reigns in love forevermore.
- 4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
 onward, with the cross our aid.
 Bear its shame, and fight its battle
 till we rest beneath its shade.
 Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
 soon the rending of the tomb!
 Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
 and the end of toil and gloom.

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

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

Prayers of Intercession

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 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

"For By Grace You Have Been Saved"

ELW #598

- 1 For by grace you have been saved
and even faith is not your own,
it's the gift of God for you
and not the works that you have done.
Don't let anybody boast,
for this is God's great gift. Amen.
- 2 "So my grace is all sufficient
for each child who is my own,
for my strength is now made perfect
for each child who is my own.
When you're weak, then you are strong,
for this is God's great gift." Amen.
- 3 So this weakness with contentment
I'll accept now in myself,
all my hardships, pains, and griefs
that still lie deep within myself.
When I'm weak, then I am strong,
for this is God's great gift. Amen. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. May we live with generous hearts and with open hands. Amen.

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

"Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"

ELW #333

Refrain

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.

- 1 No one can do like Jesus,
 not a mumbling word he said;
 he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
 and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*
- 2 When Jesus was on earth,
 the flesh was very weak;
 he took a towel and girded himself
 and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*
- 3 Yonder comes my Savior,
 him whom I love so well;
 he has the palm of victory
 and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

SENDING WORDS

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