

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
zionlutheranaberndeen.org  
Mark Galbraith, Interim Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*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!*

PRELUDE

“There in God’s Garden”

David Cherwein

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

ELW #606

- 1
- Our Father, we have wandered  
and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered  
your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling,  
we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling,  
we hear you call our name.
- 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.
- 3
- O Lord of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving,  
and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.

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.**

<b>SONG OF PRAISE</b>	<b>"Amazing Grace"</b>	<b>ELW #779</b>
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | Amazing grace! how sweet the sound<br>that saved a wretch like me!<br>I once was lost, but now am found;<br>was blind, but now I see.             |
| 2 | 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,<br>and grace my fears relieved;<br>how precious did that grace appear<br>the hour I first believed!     |
| 3 | Through many dangers, toils, and snares<br>I have already come;<br>'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,<br>and grace will lead me home.       |
| 4 | The Lord has promised good to me;<br>his word my hope secures;<br>he will my shield and portion be<br>as long as life endures.                    |
| 5 | When we've been there ten thousand years,<br>bright shining as the sun,<br>we've no less days to sing God's praise<br>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.

**KID’S TIME**

Prayer Pillow Milestone

**FIRST READING** **Joshua 5:9-12**

<sup>9</sup>The 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.  
<sup>10</sup>While 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. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The 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** **Psalms 32**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.  
<sup>2</sup>Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.  
<sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
<sup>5</sup>Then 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.  
<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.  
<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.  
<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.  
<sup>9</sup>Do 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.  
<sup>10</sup>Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.  
<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**SECOND READING** **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>From 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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So

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

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.

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

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

- 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 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](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

### "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.

BENEDICTION

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 HYMN

“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.

POSTLUDE

“Jesus is a Rock”

Aaron David Miller