

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*It is possible to hear in Jesus’ high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death, the petitions of the ascended Christ for his own throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ’s forgiveness, and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Before You, Lord, We Bow

ELW #893

- 1
- Before you, Lord, we bow,  
our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below  
with boundless pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring  
in joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise,  
to you we sing!
- 2
- May ev'ry mountain height,  
each vale and forest green,  
shine forth in wisdom's light,  
and its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue  
be tuned to praise  
and join to raise  
a grateful song.
- 3
- Earth, hear your maker's voice;  
your great redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice,  
and worship God alone.  
Cast down your pride,  
your sin deplore,  
and bow before  
the Crucified.
- 4
- And when in pow'r he comes,  
oh, then may ev'ry land  
from all its rending tombs  
send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng,  
with joy to sing  
to heav'n's high king  
salvation's song!

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy ✠ Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
Amen.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.*

Gracious God,  
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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** *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* **ELW #888**

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies,  
for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties  
above the fruited plain:  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved  
in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved,  
and mercy more than life:  
America! America!  
May God thy gold refine,  
till all success be nobleness,  
and ev'ry gain divine.
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream  
that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam,  
undimmed by human tears:  
America! America!  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
confirm thy soul in self-control,  
thy liberty in law.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together:  
O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## Acts 16:16-24

<sup>16</sup>One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 97

*(read responsively)*

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!
- <sup>2</sup>Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- <sup>3</sup>Fire goes before him,  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
- <sup>4</sup>His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.
- <sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the LORD of all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup>The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.
- <sup>7</sup>All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;  
all gods bow down before him.
- <sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O God.
- <sup>9</sup>For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup>The LORD loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;  
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.
- <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!

## SECOND READING

## Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

<sup>12</sup>See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. <sup>16</sup>It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."  
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

<sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*God's Word is Our Great Heritage*

ELW #509

God's word is our great heritage  
and shall be ours forever;  
to spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
in death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant while time shall last  
your church may hold it fast  
throughout all generations.

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

Pastor Renee Splichal Larson

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

ELW #712

- 1     Lord, whose love in humble service  
      bore the weight of human need,  
      who upon the cross, forsaken,  
      worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
      we, your servants, bring the worship  
      not of voice alone, but heart;  
      consecrating to your purpose  
      ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2     Still your children wander homeless;  
      still the hungry cry for bread;  
      still the captives long for freedom;  
      still in grief we mourn our dead.  
      As you, Lord, in deep compassion

healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. 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**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

*Prayer response:* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

## OFFERING

*We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation possible. We encourage everyone to give. 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

### *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

ELW #890

- 1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:  
his truth is marching on.

#### *Refrain*

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

- 2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.  
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!  
Our God is marching on. *Refrain*

- 3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.  
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,  
while God is marching on. *Refrain*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all in your presence. Reach out to us in this time, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may believe and be saved in 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.

## BENEDICTION

God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

**ELW #537**

1      On our way rejoicing  
        gladly let us go.  
        Christ our Lord has conquered;  
        vanquished is the foe.  
        Christ without, our safety;  
        Christ within, our joy;  
        who, if we be faithful,  
        can our hope destroy?

*Refrain*

        On our way rejoicing;  
        as we forward move,  
        hearken to our praises,  
        O blest God of love!

2      Unto God the Father  
        joyful songs we sing;  
        unto God the Savior  
        thankful hearts we bring;  
        unto God the Spirit  
        bow we and adore,  
        on our way rejoicing  
        now and evermore. *Refrain*

**SENDING WORDS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**