

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Ash Wednesday
zionlutheranaberdeen.org



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
The Holy Spirit calls to turn toward God and one another.

When we turn we see God with new eyes for living.
When we turn toward God we see our neighbors with new eyes for loving.

PSALM

Psalm 51

(read responsively)

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

- ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
- ¹⁹then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together for God's mercy. Almighty and ever-living God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MEDITATION ON THE WORD

Reverend Nicole Martin

HYMN

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW #339

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.
- 2 You have suffered great affliction
and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion,
fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented
that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.

3 Then, for all that bought my pardon,
for the sorrows deep and sore,
for the anguish in the garden,
I will thank you evermore;
thank you for the groaning, sighing,
for the bleeding and the dying,
for that last triumphant cry,
praise you evermore on high.

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that invites us to turn toward restoration and reconciliation and away from the objects and actions that break the bonds of relationship with God and neighbor. This invitation creates a pathway of discipleship, the path of discipline we call Lent.

Together we will step into the ritual of self-examination, repenting all the ways that keep us from relationship with God and others, while turning toward the generosity of love, mercy, and forgiveness of God. Strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament, let us continue our journey through these forty days preparing our hearts as generosity unfolds during Great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another, that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and
apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure
to share the faith that is in us,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments,
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
**Hear us, O God,
for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Let us Pray: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Prayer response: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

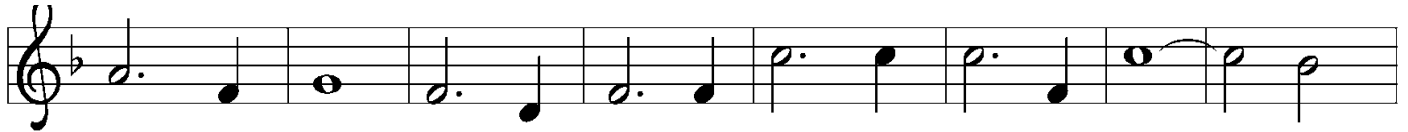
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Taste and See

ELW #493



Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

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: **Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence and, above all, that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

SENDING 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.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, standing in the generosity of God to be image of God's generosity in this world.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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