

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
zionlutheranaberdeem.org



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

The birds sing a story of wakefulness.

The sun grows long revealing places that have been hidden in darkness.

The trees stretch with new buds they wake from slumber.

Flowers sprout green blades of new life from what was frozen.

As spring exposes the beauty of new life that arises from the frosty winters.

Jesus exposes the beauty of new life that arises from the frosty disharmony of our lives and gives us new music to dance with joyful harmony.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Let us be awake. Let us be thankful.

Let us dwell in the music of love: Christ lives so we live too.

GATHERING SONG

*Your Love is Amazing*

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.

Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.

Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me;

When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Your love makes me sing.

And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Your love makes me sing.

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,

All the joy that's growing deep inside of me.

And every time I see You all Your goodness shines through,

And I feel this God song rising up in me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.  
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging.  
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet.  
Your love is a mystery, how You gently lift me;  
When I am surrounded, Your love carries me.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.  
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.  
And hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Your love makes me sing.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!  
**Here is the living water of life for us! Alleluia!**

Look, here is bread and wine!  
**Here is the bread of wine and the cup of forgiveness for us! Alleluia!**

Look, here is the empty cross!  
**Here is the promise of resurrection for us! Alleluia!**

**Let us come and drink, taste and be nourished anew.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of grace and glory,  
you have by your own handiwork brought us through the dark shadows that threaten to keep us  
in bondage, and into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, even on our best days, we struggle to  
see the light as we ought. Make us alive in Christ, O God, so we may see your glory—not  
looking to ourselves, but rather to Christ, who is the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Make us  
new, as you make all things new, to live with boldness into your holiness, through Jesus Christ,  
our risen Lord. Amen.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and † frees you from the bondage of brokenness by his blood and calls you to his holiness. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE

### *I Love You, Lord*

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice  
To worship you; O my soul rejoice.  
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice  
To worship you; O my soul rejoice.  
Take joy, my King, in what you hear;  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

### 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. **Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra

### FIRST READING

### Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*(read responsively)*

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

**<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the LORD,**

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

**SECOND READING**

**1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the

world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks*

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

The holy gospel according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL

**John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*The Power of Your Love*

Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,  
Flowing from the grace that I've found in You.  
And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see  
In me will be stripped away, by the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me.  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You.  
Your spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,  
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.  
Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds  
In my life, in living everyday in the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me.  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You.  
Your spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me.  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You.  
Your spirit leads me on in the power of Your love.

**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 PEOPLE

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*Prayer response:* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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 SONG

### *Beloved*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God,  
And ev'ryone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.  
He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love.  
Beloved, let us love one another, First John four: seven and eight.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God,  
And ev'ryone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.  
He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love.  
Beloved, let us love one another, First John four: seven and eight.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Risen One, **you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. 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.

## LITANY

We come to the table of the Lord bringing our whole selves.  
We come to the table honest about who we are.

We come to the table as a community.  
We come to the table with our neighbors, both known and unknown.

We come to the table standing in the mercy of God.  
We come to the table receiving forgiveness through Christ.

We come to the table for healing.  
We come to the table knowing we will find reconciliation through the gift of Christ for us.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave us:

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.



## 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 SONG

### *Amazing Love*

My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly,  
That I, the guilty one, may go free?  
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,  
The Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt he pays and my death he dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.

And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected;  
But, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.  
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,  
The Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt he pays and my death he dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;  
Come, wash your guilt away, live again.  
Amazing love, oh, what sacrifice,  
The Son of God giv'n for me;  
My debt he pays and my death he dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.

## 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: **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always being the rhythm of your step to guide you in the joyful melody of God's love.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## *My Redeemer Lives*

I know He rescued my soul,  
His blood has covered my sin,  
I believe, I believe.

My shame He's taken away,  
My pain is healed in His name.  
I believe, I believe.  
I'll raise a banner,  
My Lord has conquered the grave.

My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

I know He rescued my soul,  
His blood has covered my sin,  
I believe, I believe.

My shame He's taken away,  
My pain is healed in His name.  
I believe, I believe.  
I'll raise a banner,  
My Lord has conquered the grave.

My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

You lift my burden, I'll rise with You:  
I'm dancing on this mountaintop to see Your Kingdom come.

My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives,  
My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives.

## SENDING WORDS

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We will sing praise to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

CCLI Copyright License #2029973 / Streaming License #20579691

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.