

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
zionlutheranaberndeen.org



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

God, Whose Farm is All Creation

ELW #734

- 1 God, whose farm is all creation,
take the gratitude we give;
take the finest of our harvest,
crops we grow that we may live.
- 2 Take our plowing, seeding, reaping,
hopes and fears of sun and rain,
all our thinking, planning, waiting,
ripened in this fruit and grain.
- 3 All our labor, all our watching,
all our calendar of care
in these crops of your creation,
take, O God: they are our prayer.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Bless this place and these people, God of manna, God of miracles, ✠ and God of mercy as we are gathered to hear your word, dwell in your peace, and partake in your life-giving presence.
Amen.

A mighty wind has blown,
and tongues of fire have danced!

The presence of the Spirit is with us,
just as Jesus the Christ promised.

The presence of the Spirit moves and gathers us into community.
The Spirit moves us to lives of nurturing and challenging one another, celebrating and witnessing.

Let us marvel and the power of God—
God's power at work in and through us.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who gives freely of himself for our well-being, we confess the struggles we have to trust you, share what you provide, and learn from your teachings. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Empower us to follow the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Amen.

By God's grace, you are saved. In the name of Christ ✠ your sins are forgiven. The Spirit is upon you to live with the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

ELW #736

- 1 God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now.
- 2 God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now.
- 3 God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at ev'ry table,
we are hungry; feed us now.
- 4 God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet,
God the resurrected truth:
you are present ev'ry moment,
we are searching; meet us now.

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 are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

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!

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Nicole Martin

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW #679

1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

- 2 In the just reward of labor,
 God's will is done.
 In the help we give our neighbor,
 God's will is done.
 In our worldwide task of caring
 for the hungry and despairing,
 in the harvests we are sharing,
 God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
 thanks be to God.
 For the good we all inherit,
 thanks be to God.
 For the wonders that astound us,
 for the truths that still confound us,
 most of all, that love has found us,
 thanks be to God.

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

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Prayer response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

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 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

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Jesus, bread of life, **you have set this table with your very self and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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 called by the Holy Spirit.

We come to the table ready to receive what God provides.

We come to the table as a community, one body with many members.

We come to the table ready for relationship with God and others.

We come to the table hungry for the bread of Life.

We come to the table ready to receive God's generosity.

We come to the table for healing.

We come to the table knowing we will be restored and blessed to serve others.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the work of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. 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 HYMN

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

ELW #767

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages,
are always near.
Close by your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding,
in peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home,

then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me
unto the end.

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: Jesus, bread of life, **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

BLESSING OF FATHERS

BLESSING

The blessing of God, that provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW #547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;

unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

SENDING WORDS

Go into the world as champions of gospel living.
Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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