

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Baptism of Our Lord Sunday
zionlutheranaberdeen.org



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we turn our hearts to worship:

Bless this place, O God, as we are gathered to hear your word. Inspire us through your spirit and generosity to see the love of the Christ child, empowering us to live our baptismal identity.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The River

To the river I am going,
Bringing sins I cannot bear.
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me,
Lord I need to meet you there.

In these waters, healing mercy,
Flows with freedom from despair.
I am going to that river,
Lord I need to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready
To surrender every care.
Take my hand now, lead me closer.
Lord I need to meet you there.

Come and join us, in the river.
Come find life beyond compare.
He is calling, He is waiting,
Jesus longs to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready
To surrender every care.
Take my hand now, lead me closer.
Lord I need to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready
To surrender every care.
Take my hand now, lead me closer.
Lord I need to meet you there.

Take my hand now, lead me closer.
Lord I need to meet you there.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God works through the baptismal waters, **Lord, receive the words and meditations of our hearts, as we turn to you for healing and renewal.**

A moment of silence for self-examination.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give into scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults, and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ☩ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

SONG OF REFLECTION

Come to the River

Come, O come, come to the river flowing from the body of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.

Come, O come, come to the river flowing from the body of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.

Come, O come, come to the river flowing from the body of Christ.
We'll go down, deep in the water, but in the Lord we shall arise.
But in the Lord we shall arise.

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: Heavenly Father, **with joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children,**

for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

KIDS' TIME & NOISY OFFERING

FIRST READING

Psalm 51:6-17

(read responsively)

⁶You 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.**

⁸Let 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.**

¹⁰Create 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.**

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

SONG OF PREPARATION

Alleluia (I am the Light of the World)

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Those who follow me will not walk in darkness.

Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Those who follow me will not walk in darkness.
Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.
Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-22

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

SERMON

Reverend Nicole Martin

SONG OF THE DAY

Borning Cry

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day your were baptized, to see your life unfold."

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation.
And uphold me with your free spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation.
And uphold me with your free spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.
And renew a right spirit within me.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: God of grace, **your love reaches to the heavens and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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
blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, in the waters of baptism.

We come to the table of the Lord
blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, in the Word made flesh and active in bread and wine.

We come to the table of the Lord
blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, for the healing and restoration of our soul.

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

Come and be blessed by the touch of God, in the bread and wine. All are welcome to receive the joy, strength, and love of God.

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

Let the River Flow

Let the poor man say I am rich in Him, let the lost man say I am found in Him,
Oh, let the river flow.

Let the blind man say I can see again. Let the dead man say I am born again.
Oh, let the river flow. Let the river flow.

Let the river flow, let the river flow.
Holy Spirit come, move in power.
Let the river flow.

Let the poor man say I am rich in Him, let the lost man say I am found in Him,
Oh, let the river flow.
Let the blind man say I can see again. Let the dead man say I am born again.
Oh, let the river flow. Let the river flow.

Let the river flow, let the river flow.
Holy Spirit come, move in power.
Let the river flow. Let the river flow.
Let the river flow. Let the river flow.
Let the river flow. Let the river flow.

Let the river flow, let the river flow.
Holy Spirit come, move in power.
Let the river flow.

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: Nourishing God, **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

The River is Here

Down the mountain the river flows,
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes.
Through the valleys and over the fields
The river is rushing and the river is here.

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.

The river of God is teeming with life,
All who touch it can be revived,
And those who linger on this river's shore
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord.

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.

Up to the mountain we love to go
To find the presence of the Lord.
Along the banks of the river we run,
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son.

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing,
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer.
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter,
And we rejoice for the river is here.

SENDING WORDS

Go in peace. Share the rich word of Christ's presence for all.

Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

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