

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
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 as your presence in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW #742

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 oh, what needless pain we bear--
 all because we do not carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you;
 you will find a solace there.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us return to God, with all of who we are.

Lord, receive the words and meditations of our hearts. Use them to heal and renew us.

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 in to 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.**

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Gathered in the Love of Christ

Gathered in the love of Christ,
we are one in the fam'ly of God.
We are the dwelling place that love has made.
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

Gathered in the love of Christ,
we are one in the fam'ly of God.
We are the dwelling place that love has made.
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

Gathered in the love of Christ,
we are one in the fam'ly of God.
We are the dwelling place that love has made.
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

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: God of Mystery,

Just as the crowds wondered about Jesus, we too, wonder about you. Who are you to us? Are you the one? Show us that you are God: mysterious, wonderful, mighty. Amen.

KIDS' TIME

FIRST READING

Psalm 146:5-10

(read responsively)

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!**

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Listen to the Word

Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-35

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples ¹⁹and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ²⁰When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'" ²¹Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. ²³And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live

in luxury are in royal palaces. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹(And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John's baptism. ³⁰But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

³¹To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,
'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not weep.'

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; ³⁴the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

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

MESSAGE

Monica Tietz

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW #249

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

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

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 HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686

1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

- 2 May we thy bounties thus
 as stewards true receive,
 and gladly, as thou blessest us,
 to thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 The captive to release,
 to God the lost to bring,
 to teach the way of life and peace—
 it is a Christlike thing.
- 4 And we believe thy word,
 though dim our faith may be:
 whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
 we do it unto thee.

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.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

With gratitude for all the Emmanuel does for us, we turn to the altar, to standing communion with the Lord, with praise and thanksgiving for The Word.

HYMN

Canticle of Thanksgiving

ELW, pg. 219

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,
O God of the universe;
just and true are your ways,
O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord,
and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one
whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!

Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;

rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

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.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

Thine the Amen

ELW #826

- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes
 thine the table we the guest
 thine the mercy all from thee
 thine the glory yet to be
 then the ringing and the singing
 then the end of all the war
 thine the living thine the loving
 evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize
 thine the wonder full surprise
 thine the banquet then the praise
 then the justice of thy ways
 thine the glory thine the story
 then the welcome to the least
 then the wonder all increasing
 at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
 no more dying only light
 thine the river thine the tree
 then the Lamb eternally
 then the holy holy holy
 celebration jubilee
 thine the splendor thine the brightness
 only thee only thee.

SENDING WORDS

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

Thanks be to God, and we will.

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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.