

Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Lenten Responsive Prayer Service
zionlutheranaberdeem.org

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Let you light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

Wise God, shining in darkness, you break the bonds of confusion, and you light our path toward healing.

We're here to be with you.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation.

Turn us to you again, O God of our salvation,
that the light of your face may shine on us.

May your justice shine like the sun,
and may the poor be lifted up.

HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

ELW #561

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lost in the enveloping tenderness of God's love, radiating out as warm light upon our soul, we cry out for God's redemption to create transformation in our lives.

Take from my instep the skein of damage that has threaded its way through my life like a tightening cord. Take from my body the wounds of unloving that punctures and bruises like a sword. Take from my mind the dark engulfing that has judged my life like a condemning word. Take from my soul the unbelieving that has made you seem like a lost God. Show us how to live in your light and love.

A moment of silence

By the authority of God, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, you are washed clean; not a sprinkle but a bucket of forgiveness is poured over you. You are drenched in the sea of God's love, standing in waves of mercy, and radiating with grace, for all to see.

Amen and Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

O Light Whose Splendor Thrills

ELW #563

- 1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
with radiance brighter than the sun,
pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One:

- 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
and lamps are lit, and children nod,
in evening hymns we lift our voices
to Father, Spirit, Son, one God.

3 In all life's brilliant, timeless moments,
let faithful voices sing your praise,
O Son of God, our life-bestower,
whose glory lightens endless days.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:6-8

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-10

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

GOSPEL

Luke 10:25-28

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

DWELLING WITH THE WORD

Reverend Nicole Martin

HYMN

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

ELW #722

1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.

Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.

- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,
that, joined by faith with your great heart,
become love's open doors.
We are your body, risen Christ;
our hearts, our hands we yield
that through our life and ministry
your love may be revealed.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us 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

Loving God, we bring to you the fullness of our self—our whole heart, our whole soul, all of our strength, and all of our thinking
working in us for the revealing of your kingdom.

For the poor in spirit, the poor on the street, and the working poor;
Be with the poor today. Show them your care through the love of your people.

For those who feel the pains of a government at odds, war by military action, or gang violence;
Be with the suffering of our world. Give them peace through the love of your people.

For any suffering loss of job, loss of love, loss of self-worth;
Be with the depressed. Hold out your hand to them through the love of your people.

For those who are isolated from a community of care;
Be with the lonely. Let them know you are with them through the love of your people.

We extend these prayers to you our Father. Hear us through the love of your Son, and move us by the Holy Spirit into action. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

As the Spirit gathers us, let us pray the words of Jesus:

**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.**

SENDING HYMN

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

ELW #564

1 God, who made the earth and heaven,
darkness and light:
you the day for work have given,

for rest the night.

May your angel guards defend us,
slumber sweet your mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us
all through the night.

2 And when morn again shall call us
to run life's way,
may we still, whate'er befall us,
your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us,
in the narrow pathway guide us,
never be your smile denied us
all through the day.

4 Holy Father, throned in heaven,
all-holy Son,
Holy Spirit, freely given,
blest Three in One:
grant us grace, we now implore you,
till we lay our crowns before you
and in worthier strains adore you
while ages run.

BLESSING

May your lips always be ready with a prayer of compassion for others.

May your mind be wise to offer wisdom to those who are lost.

May your hands be strong to serve those who are weak.

Bless be your spirit rejoice with the love of God.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

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