

**Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**[zionlutheranaberndeen.org](http://zionlutheranaberndeen.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 SONG**

***Once Again***

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice.  
You became nothing, poured out to death.  
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life.  
I'm in that place again.  
I'm in that place again.

And once again I look upon the cross where you died.  
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.  
Once again I thank you.  
Once again I pour out my life.

Now you are exalted to the highest place.  
King of the Heavens one day I'll bow.  
But for now I marvel at this saving grace.  
I'm full of praise once again.  
I'm full of praise once again.

And once again I look upon the cross where you died.  
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Once again I thank you.  
Once again I pour out my life.

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## 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 our wounds and the aches of our hearts, setting us on a new path.**

*A moment of silence for self-examination.*

God of saving and healing,

**we are caught in snares and trapped by brokenness. We get stuck in patterns that harm ourselves and others, by how we speak, act, and treat each other. In these ways, we do not always reflect the love you have for the world—offering tender compassion, radical hospitality, and pathways for reconnection. For all these things, Lord, we seek forgiveness. Transform our lives and guide us again, to live as you live, helping others to be healed and saved. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. Share this good news. **Amen.**

## SONG OF REFLECTION

### *I Believe in Jesus*

I believe in Jesus. I believe He is the Son of God.  
I believe He died and rose again. I believe He paid for us all.  
And I believe He's here now, standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive.

I believe in You, Lord. I believe You are the Son of God.  
I believe You died and rose again. I believe You paid for us all.  
And I believe You are here now, standing in our midst,  
Here with the power to heal now and the grace to forgive.

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## 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: Rejoicing Father, **you celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We stand humbled and in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for the sake of our souls, Jesus Christ our seeker. Amen.**

## KIDS' TIME

### FIRST READING

**Psalm 119:167-176**

*(read responsively)*

<sup>167</sup>My soul keeps your decrees;  
I love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup>**I keep your precepts and decrees,  
for all my ways are before you.**

<sup>169</sup>Let my cry come before you, O LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word.

<sup>170</sup>**Let my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.**

<sup>171</sup>My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup>**My tongue will sing of your promise,  
for all your commandments are right.**

<sup>173</sup>Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup>**I long for your salvation, O LORD,  
and your law is my delight.**

<sup>175</sup>Let me live that I may praise you,  
and let your ordinances help me.

<sup>176</sup>**I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.**

## PREPARING FOR THE WORD

### SONG OF PREPARATION

***Jesus, You Have Given Me***

Jesus, You have given me all of your grace so tenderly.  
I lift my hands and praise your name.  
Jesus, You have given me all of your love on Calvary.  
I lift my heart into your hands.

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I lift my hands and praise your name.  
Jesus, You have given me all of your love on Calvary.  
I lift my heart into your hands.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

### **Luke 15:1-32**

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is

yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

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

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Nicole Martin**

### **SONG OF THE DAY**

#### ***Faithful Father***

Father, I can't explain this kind of love,  
This kind of grace.  
I know, I still break Your heart  
And yet, You run to welcome me.

This is my song of praise to You,  
For who You are and all that You do.  
From the moment my life began  
You have been faithful.

Father, I love the way You hold me close  
And say my name.  
I know, when my life is through  
My heart will find its home in You.

This is my song of praise to You,  
For who You are and all that You do.  
From the moment my life began  
You have been faithful.

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For who You are and all that You do.  
From the moment my life began  
You have been faithful.

### **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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*Prayer response:* God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

#### ***Create in 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.

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: Gracious provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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 and transformed by his love.**

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray with 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**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

### **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 AFTER COMMUNION**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: Generous host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## MINISTRY MOMENT

### BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit is alive in you for the work of the cross. Be ☩ blessed by God's presence for you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

#### *Glorious Day*

I was buried beneath my shame.  
Who could carry that kind of weight?  
It was my tomb, till I met You.

I was breathing, but not alive.  
All my failure I tried to hide.  
It was my tomb, till I met You.

You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.  
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.

Now Your mercy has saved my soul.  
And Your freedom is all I know.  
The old made new, Jesus when I met you.

You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.  
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave.  
Out of the darkness into Your glorious day.

I needed rescue, my sin was heavy.  
But chains break at the weight of Your glory.  
I needed shelter, I was an orphan.  
Now You call me a citizen of heaven.

When I was broken, You were my healing.  
Now Your love is the air that I'm breathing.  
I have a future, my eyes are open.

'Cause when You called my name, I ran out of that grave,  
out of the darkness into Your glorious day.  
You called my name, and I ran out of that grave,  
out of the darkness into Your glorious day.

### **SENDING WORDS**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God, and we will.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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