

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Second Sunday of Easter
zionlutheranaberdeen.org



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Lord, we come and sing to God a new song
for God has done marvelous things.

Because of God's steadfast love to Israel,
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Break forth into joyous song and praises,
for God will rule the earth with righteousness. Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus our risen Christ. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW #392

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."
- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! The chasm between death and life has been closed by Christ.
Here is the living water of life for us! Alleluia!

Look, here is bread and wine—Jesus' humility and hospitality given for us.
Here is the bread of wine and the cup of forgiveness for us! Alleluia!

Look, here is the empty cross, a sacrifice of love so love could abound.
Here is the promise of resurrection for us! Alleluia!

A moment of silence.

God of grace and glory,
you have by your own handiwork brought us through the dark shadows that threaten to keep us in bondage, and into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, even on our best days, we struggle to see the light as we ought. Make us alive in Christ, O God, so we may see your glory, not looking to ourselves, but rather to Christ who is the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Make us new as you make all things new, to live with boldness into your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ ☩ loves you and frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! **Amen.**

KYRIE

ELW, pg. 120

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW, pg. 122

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ,
the lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches,
wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all
the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor,
glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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: Holy Giver and Receiver of life, **your martyr, Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit. When his opponents took his life, he offered up his spirit to you and prayed for mercy for theirs. Make Stephen an example of faith and courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought light and life to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

KIDS' TIME

SONG OF PREPARATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

FIRST READING

Luke 23:33-34a, 46

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

FOCUS TEXT

Acts 6:1—7:2a, 44-60

¹Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. ²And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.

³Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, ⁴while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." ⁵What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law;

¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." ¹⁵And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

¹Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" ²And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ⁴⁴Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, ⁴⁶who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built a house for him. ⁴⁸Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands as the prophet says,

⁴⁹'Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,
or what is the place of my rest?

⁵⁰Did not my hand make all these things?'

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

SERMON

Pastor Nicole Martin

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!

ELW #380

- 1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ, the conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.
- 2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?
Why that sad and mournful sigh?

Christ who died our brother here
lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow
blessings on his church below.

- 3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
life eternal waits for you;
joined to Christ, your living head,
where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at God's right hand,
as a victor you shall stand.
- 4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song,
cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway
sin and death and hell obey.
- 5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!
Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain
which our feebler voices raise:
Glory to our God above
and on earth his peace and love!

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

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayer response: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #188

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: Risen One, **you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again. Breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

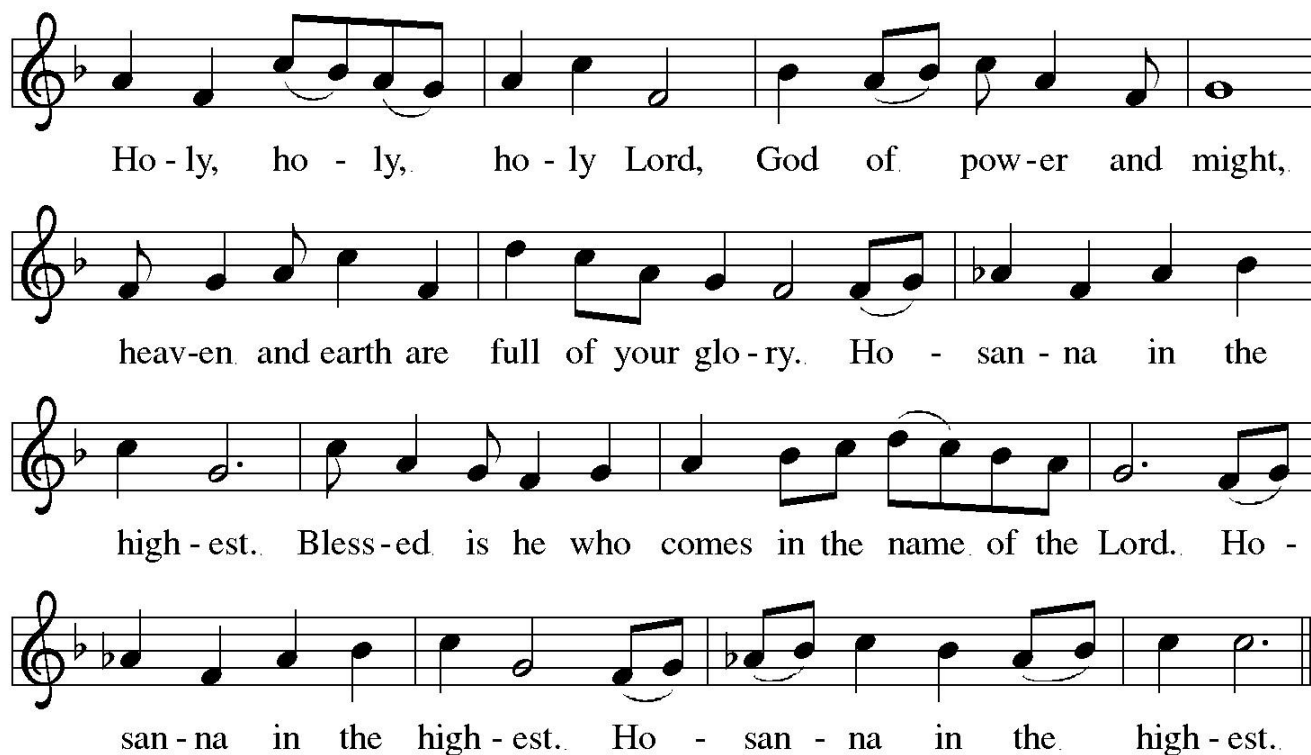
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LITANY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
 ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en. and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come to the table of grace.
Receive the gift of new life.

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

ELW, pg. 135

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

COMMUNION 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.

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: Living One, **in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

MINISTRY MOMENT

BENEDICTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ☩ bless you now and always, being the rhythm in your step to guide you in the joyful melody of God's love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching ev'ry place and time.

- 3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

SENDING WORDS

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! We will sing praise to God.

POSTLUDE

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