

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD  
 First Sunday in Lent  
 zionlutheranaberdeen.org



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We come during the season of Lent to glorify God, remembering all he has done and has yet to do.

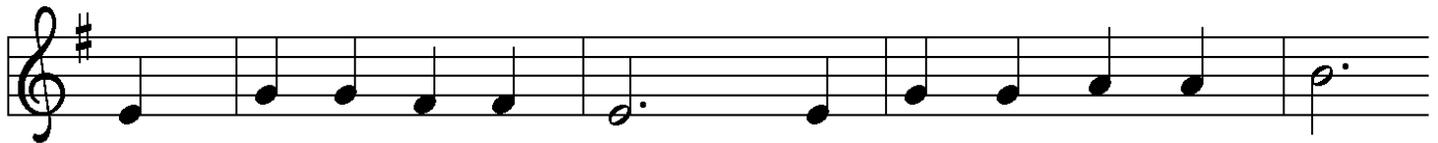
**We remember the sufferings of Jesus Christ, the varied ways he gives himself as nourishment, enlightenment, opportunity, truth, justice, and in leadership guides us.**

Turning to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we cry out,  
**bless this place so that we may see you clearly and be empowered to live in the light of the cross, being servants of your light. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## KYRIE

### *Kyrie*

ELW pg. 203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GATHERING DIALOGUE

Lord, we know we have traveled far from you.

**We struggle to trust your promises. We ignore your prophets. We squander away our inheritance of grace. We fail to see you clearly in our midst. Forgive us, and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assuring us of your love, and empowering us to love our neighbors as you love us.**

*A moment of silence for self-examination.*

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG**

### ***Lord of Light***

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
Though wars may rage  
and pain surrounds you,  
your heart will hope.  
He's the source of life.

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
Wait, be still.  
God's strong arms keep you.  
Wait, be strong.  
He's the source of life.

The Lord of light is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the source of life.  
For in the day of trouble,  
He will keep me safe.  
Though enemies surround me,  
I will sing to the Lord.

The Lord of life, is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the Lord of life.  
The Lord of life, is my salvation.  
Whom shall I fear? He's the Lord of life.

## **GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together: God of Vision, **too often we are spiritually blindfolded, unable to see you at work in our world. Remove barriers that keep us from seeing. Help us to be light for others. Amen.**

## **KIDS' TIME**

**FIRST READING**

**Psalm 27**

*(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup> When evildoers assail me  
to devour my flesh—  
my adversaries and foes—  
they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup> One thing I asked of the Lord;  
this I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup> Now my head is lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup> "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"  
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.  
Do not turn your servant away in anger,  
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!

**<sup>10</sup> If my father and mother forsake me,  
the Lord will take me up.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.

**<sup>12</sup> Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,**

**and they are breathing out violence.**

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!**

## **PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

### **SONG OF PREPARATION**                      *Word of God, Speak*

I'm finding myself, at a loss for words.  
But the funny thing is, its okay.  
The last thing I need, is to be heard,  
But to hear what You would say.

Word of God, speak  
Would You pour down like rain  
Washing my eyes to see Your majesty.  
To be still and know,  
That You're in this place.  
Please let me stay and rest, in Your holiness.  
Word of God speak.

The holy gospel according to John, the ninth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL**    **John 9**

<sup>1-2</sup> Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

<sup>3-5</sup> Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

<sup>6-7</sup> He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "Sent"). The man went and washed—and saw.

<sup>8</sup> Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?"

<sup>9</sup> Others said, "It's him all right!"  
But others objected, "It's not the same man at all. It just looks like him."

He said, "It's me, the very one."

<sup>10</sup> They said, "How did your eyes get opened?"

<sup>11</sup> "A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' I did what he said. When I washed, I saw."

<sup>12</sup> "So where is he?"

"I don't know."

<sup>13-15</sup> They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath."

Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.

<sup>17</sup> They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18-19</sup> The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"

<sup>20-23</sup> His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself."

<sup>24</sup> They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor."

<sup>25</sup> He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see."

<sup>26</sup> They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

<sup>27</sup> "I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"

<sup>28-29</sup> With that they jumped all over him. “*You* might be a disciple of that man, but we’re disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from.”

<sup>30-33</sup> The man replied, “This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It’s well known that God isn’t at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn’t come from God, he wouldn’t be able to do anything.”

<sup>34</sup> They said, “You’re nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!” Then they threw him out in the street.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup> The man said, “Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, “You’re looking right at him. Don’t you recognize my voice?”

<sup>38</sup> “Master, I believe,” the man said, and worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup> Jesus then said, “I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees overheard him and said, “Does that mean you’re calling us blind?”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, “If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you’re accountable for every fault and failure.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Nicole Martin**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)***

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound.  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found.  
Was blind but now I see.

Twass Grace that taught my heart to fear  
And Grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns;  
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood his mercy reigns;  
Unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow.  
The sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me hear below,  
Will be forever mine.  
Will be forever mine.  
Will be forever mine.

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(please stand)*

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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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**

#### ***There is None Like You***

There is none like You. No one else can touch my heart like You do.  
I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You.

There is none like You. No one else can touch my heart like You do.  
I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You.

Your mercy flows like a river wide, and healing comes from Your hands.  
Suffering children are safe in Your arms. There is none like You.

There is none like You. No one else can touch my heart like You do.  
I could search for all eternity long and find there is none like You.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together: Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

**Now, we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen**

### **GIVING THANKS FOR THE MEAL**

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.**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

**In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.**

In every age, you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

**The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.**

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant, giving us your son

**to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.**

We ask you to be with us now, at this time and in this place. Let us lift our prayer in singing:

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

## **BLESSING OF THE MEAL**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

## **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**

### ***Redeemer, Savior, Friend***

I know You had me on Your mind when You climbed up on that hill;  
For You saw me with eternal eyes, while I was yet in sin;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Ev'ry stripe upon Your battered back, ev'ry thorn that pierced Your brow;  
And ev'ry nail drove deep through guiltless hands  
Said that Your love knows no end;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;  
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;  
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

So the grace You've poured upon my life, will return to You in praise;  
And I'll gladly lay down all my crowns,  
For the name by which I'm saved;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;  
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;  
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

Redeemer, redeem my heart again;  
Savior, come and shelter me from sin;  
You're familiar with my weakness, devoted to the end;  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend,  
Redeemer, Savior, Friend.

## **BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL**

Let us pray together: Blessed Jesus, **in this meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

## **MINISTRY MOMENT**

## **SENDING BLESSING**

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey go where Christ leads. Almighty God, compassionate, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you on your path with wisdom for your travels, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

### ***Friend of God***

Who am I that You are mindful of me?  
That You hear me when I call?  
Is it true that You are thinking of me?  
How You love me, it's amazing. It's amazing.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
He calls me friend.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
He calls me friend.

Who am I that You are mindful of me?  
That You hear me when I call?  
Is it true that You are thinking of me?  
How You love me, it's amazing. It's amazing.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
He calls me friend.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.

I am a friend of God.  
He calls me friend.

God Almighty, Lord of Glory,  
You have called me friend.  
God Almighty, Lord of Glory,  
You have called me friend.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
You call me friend.

I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
I am a friend of God.  
You call me friend.

## **SENDING WORDS**

You are made strong in Christ. Proclaim the depth of God's sacrificial love to all.  
**Thanks be to God, and we will.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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