

Midweek Lenten Worship Service

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

Wise God, you are alpha and omega.

You created the world, providing us a beginning, and you continue in creating so we have a future.

From the beginning through the end,

You fill the world with wonder and invite us to be co-creators with you.

From the beginning through the end,

You are bread for our nourishment, living water for our provision, the light to guide our path, the good shepherd to lead us.

From the beginning through the end,

You welcome the stranger, the child, the hurting, the lonely, the weak, the meek, and any in need.

From the beginning through the end,

salvation is the plan you give for our well-being and healing.

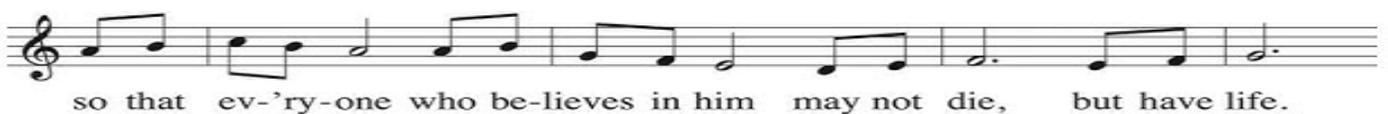
Wise God, alpha and omega, shining in darkness,

break the bonds of confusion that invade our lives. Help us rest in the truth that your love is manifest in Jesus the Christ for us and does not come to an end.

HYMN

For God So Loved the World

Refrain



Last time to Coda ☩



Spoken: The word became flesh and dwelt among us: full of grace, full of truth he made his home. He came to his own who would know him not, though all who behold him, all who receive him are called the children of God.

Refrain

Spoken: God's Son came not to condemn the world, but that the world may be saved through him, and all who believe in the Son of God shall come to the light, and live in the light, and dwell in the heart of God. For much God loves the world, so much God loves the world.

Refrain

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You, people born of flesh, were born into the world. God's love through his son, Jesus, comes to you as saving power. That love was woven into you as God knitted you in your mother's womb. That love was sprinkled upon you in the water, it feeds you through bread and wine, it moves through you with the hearing of the scripture. Be assured you are not condemned but are saved. In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

A moment of silence

Let us pray together: Most Holy God, **we open ourselves to the touch of the Spirit. We ask that you enter our lives; refreshing, renewing, and healing us with the power of your love as you guide us to live with purpose, enthusiasm, and courage in the manner of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW #319

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days
you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust
in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.

- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

FOUNDATIONS SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:5-7: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Joshua 4:21-22: And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.'

John 17:20-25: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

FOCUS OF THE DAY SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 22:1-6

- ¹ A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.
² The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.
³ The clever see danger and hide,
but the simple go on and suffer for it.
⁴ The reward for humility and fear of the Lord
is riches and honor and life.
⁵ Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse;
the cautious will keep far from them.
⁶ Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray.

FOCUS OF THE DAY SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:13-16

¹³ People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328

- 1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

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.

HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW #326

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,

then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

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.

Blessed be your spirit rejoicing with the love of God.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 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.