

## **Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!**

1732 S. Main St. Aberdeen, SD 57401

605-225-6755 Email: [Zion@nvc.net](mailto:Zion@nvc.net)

Website: [www.zionlutheranaberdeem.org](http://www.zionlutheranaberdeem.org)

~~~~~  
*Rooted in Faith \* Growing in Spirit \* Reaching out to Those in Need*  
~~~~~

---

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**10:45 am**

**March 7, 2010**

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, when we compare our lives to the potential we believe you have in mind for us, we realize anew that our thoughts are unfortunately not your thoughts and our ways are sadly very different from your ways. Yet your mercy is so great that you keep giving us another chance to cultivate our identity as people shaped by your thoughts and your ways.

**Forgive us, O God, when we are tempted to shape our behavior and our lifestyles by other than the way, the truth and the life of Jesus Christ.**

We confess that there are times when we so lower our standards that we fail to take sin and its consequences seriously.

**Forgive us, O God, when we expect others to repent while ignoring the need to repent ourselves.**

We confess that there are times when we find it more comfortable to adapt to the standards of the world rather than responding to the challenges of true Christian discipleship.

**Forgive us, O God, when we use the stress of daily 'busy-ness' as an excuse to turn away from examining what discipleship really means for us personally and as members of this faith community.**

God will not let us be tested beyond our strength, and patiently and graciously provides ways for us to turn our lives around so that we might daily bear the fruits of repentance.

**Merciful and gracious God, strengthen us with your Spirit so that we willingly turn towards you, thinking your thoughts and following your way.**

Help us to bring forth fruits worthy of our calling as followers of Jesus Christ. This we pray in his name. Amen

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The prophet Isaiah calls on the wicked to forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to God who will have mercy on them and abundantly pardon them. (*Isaiah 55:7*)

We believe that - "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." (*1 Timothy 1:15*)

The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **OPENING SONG "At the Cross"**

Oh Lord, You've searched me. You know my way.

Even when I fail You. I know You love me.

Your holy presence, surrounding me.

In every season, I know You love me. I know You love me.

At the cross I bow my knee,

Where Your blood was shed for me.

There's no greater love than this.

You have overcome the grave,

Your glory fills the highest place.

What can separate me now.

You go before me, You shield my way.

Your hand upholds me, I know You love me.

And when the earth fades, falls from my eyes.

And You stand before me, I know You love me. I know You love me.

At the cross I bow my knee,  
Where Your blood was shed for me.  
There's no greater love than this.  
You have overcome the grave,  
Your glory fills the highest place.  
What can separate me now.

You tore the veil, You made a way,  
When You said that it is done.  
You tore the veil, You made a way,  
When You said that it is done.

At the cross I bow my knee,  
Where Your blood was shed for me.  
There's no greater love than this.  
You have overcome the grave,  
Your glory fills the highest place.  
What can separate me now.

## A TIME FOR CHILDREN

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Sue Gates

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1–9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

#### PSALM: PSALM: Psalm 63:1–8

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where  
there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

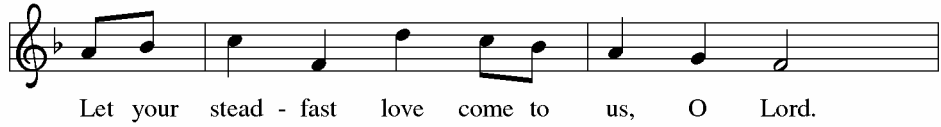
<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## LENTEN VERSE



## GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

## SERMON

**Pastor Tanya**

## SONG OF THE DAY

**"The River"**

To the river I am going,  
Bringing sins I cannot bear.  
Come and cleanse me, come forgive me,  
Lord I need to meet you there.

In these waters, healing mercy,  
Flows with freedom from despair.  
I am going to that river,  
Lord I need to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready  
To surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer.  
Lord I need to meet you there.

Come and join us, in the river.  
Come find life beyond compare.  
He is calling, He is waiting,  
Jesus longs to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready  
To surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer.  
Lord I need to meet you there.

Precious Jesus, I am ready  
To surrender every care.  
Take my hand now, lead me closer.  
Lord I need to meet you there.

Take my hand now, lead me closer.  
Lord I need to meet you there.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING SONG “I Give You My Heart”

This is my desire, to honor You.  
Lord, with all my heart I worship You.  
All I have within me, I give You praise.  
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart.  
I give You my soul.  
I live for You alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I’m awake,  
Lord, have Your way in me.

This is my desire, to honor You.  
Lord, with all my heart I worship You.  
All I have within me, I give You praise.  
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart.  
I give You my soul.  
I live for You alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I’m awake,  
Lord, have Your way in me.

Lord, I give You my heart.  
I give You my soul.  
I live for You alone.  
Every breath that I take, every moment I’m awake,  
Lord, have Your way in me.

### OFFERING PRAYER

We worship you, O God, through these gifts and our lives. May they be used to nourish lives with grace and mercy. May the fruit of your Spirit be evident in all we do and say as followers of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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**

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

#### “The Heart of Worship”

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;  
Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart.  
I’ll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;  
You’re looking into my heart.

I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You,  
It’s all about You, Jesus.  
I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it,  
When it’s all about You, it’s all about You, Jesus.

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.  
Though I’m weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev’ry single breath.  
I’ll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;  
You’re looking into my heart.

I’m coming back to the heart of worship, and it’s all about You,  
It’s all about You, Jesus.  
I’m sorry, Lord, for the thing I’ve made it,  
When it’s all about You, it’s all about You, Jesus.

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You,  
It's all about You, Jesus.  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,  
When it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten journey;  
may our fasting be hunger for justice;  
our offerings for others, a making of peace;  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG "Today"**

Today, I choose, to follow you.  
Today, I choose to give my yes to you.  
Today, I chose to hear your voice and live  
Today, I chose, to follow you.  
As for me and my house,  
We will serve You.  
As for me and my house,  
We will spend our lives on You today.

Today, I choose, to follow you.  
Today, I choose to give my yes to you.  
Today, I chose to hear your voice and live  
Today, I chose, to follow you.  
As for me and my house,  
We will serve You.  
As for me and my house,  
We will spend our lives on You today.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #26593.

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. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

### **LEADING OUR WORSHIP:**

Presiding: Pastor Tanya Rist  
Preaching: Pastor Marcia Sylvester  
Lector: Bruce Carson  
Deacons: Curt Suedmeier  
Kathy Johnson  
Acolyte: Destin Spellman  
Altar Guild Co-Chairs: Susan Duetenhoeffer  
Marva Zelmer  
Sound System: Mike Brumbaugh  
Power Point: Fred Rist  
Counters: Garry\Kathy Johnson  
Glenn Denning, Vi Martz  
Van Driver: Scott Norton  
Ushers: Harold Hoffman & Robert Strom  
Praise Band: Stephanie Bitterman, Vicki Carlson,  
Scott Geffre, Stacy Geffre, Russ Hadden,  
Alan LaFave, Ashley LaFave, Lynae Poel,  
Laurie Strom, Justin Jensen, Colin Neuharth

