

JOHN PREPARES THE WAY

October 18, 2020

8:00 am

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 South Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

www.zionlutheransf.com

Zion Lutheran Sioux Falls 

AS WE GATHER

“Say you’re sorry!” Such words are often said by a parent to a child when a wrong has occurred, usually intended to be a lesson for the child in teaching that actions have consequences. As we hear the Word of God today from Matthew 3, we also come to realize that our actions have consequences. Yet it is not just actions, but also thoughts and inactions, and the consequences of our sinful nature. The Lord doesn’t tell us to just, “Say you’re sorry!” Through His Word and through His servants like John the Baptist, He calls us to repent—to not just speak an apology, but to turn away from sin and turn to Him. Moved to repentance by faith, we are then able to live as His people, bear fruit in His name, and continue to be united as one and “together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:6).

OPENING SONG: “Rescuer” Rend Collective

Chorus

He's our Rescuer He's our Rescuer We are free from sin forevermore
Oh how sweet the sound Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

Verse 1

There is good news for the captive Good news for the shamed
There is good news for the one who walked away
There is good news for the doubter The one religion failed
For the good Lord has come to seek and save

Chorus

He's our Rescuer He's our Rescuer We are free from sin forevermore
Oh how sweet the sound Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

Verse 2

He is beauty for the blind man Riches for the poor
He is friendship for the one the world ignores
He is pasture for the weary Rest for those who strive
Oh the good Lord is the way the truth the life
Yes the good Lord is the way the truth the life

Chorus

He's our Rescuer He's our Rescuer We are free from sin forevermore
Oh how sweet the sound Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

Bridge

So come and be chainless Come and be fearless
Come to the foot of Calvary
There is redemption for every affliction
Here at the foot of Calvary
(Repeat Bridge)

End Chorus

He's our Rescuer He's our Rescuer We are free from sin forevermore
Oh how sweet the sound Oh how grace abounds
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer We will praise the Lord our Rescuer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

Pastor: Let us heed the call of the Lord through John the Baptist to repent—to turn from our sins and turn to Jesus Christ, our Savior, through whom we find true and lasting hope.

People: Merciful Father, we have turned away from You and sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, turn us away from sin and to You, that we may love and serve You and Your ways of righteousness, justice, and peace.

Pastor: God has heard our plea for forgiveness and for the sake of Jesus Christ, He answers our prayer. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAISE SONG: “The Way” Ben Smith | Daniel Bashta | Pat Barrett

Verse 1

Through every battle Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance I believe That You are my fortress

Chorus

You are my portion You are my hiding place I believe You are

The Way the Truth the Life I believe You are
The Way the Truth the Life I believe Through every blessing

Verse 2

Through every promise
Through every breath I take I believe that You are provider

Chorus

You are protector You are the One I love I believe You are

The Way The Truth The Life I believe You are
The Way The Truth The Life I believe You are

Bridge

It's a new horizon And I'm set on You And You meet me here today
With mercies that are new All my fears and doubts They can all come too
Because they can't stay long When I'm here with You

Bridge

It's a new horizon And I'm set on You And You meet me here today
With mercies that are new All my fears and doubts They can all come too
Because they can't stay long When I believe You are

Chorus

The Way The Truth The Life I believe You are
The Way The Truth The Life I believe

Bridge

It's a new horizon And I'm set on You And You meet me here today
With mercies that are new All my fears and doubts They can all come too
Because they can't stay long When I believe You are

Chorus

The Way The Truth The Life I believe You are
The Way The Truth The Life I believe You Are

READING OF THE DAY: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Here ends the Reading.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING SONG: “All My Hope” David Crowder | Ed Cash

Verse 1

I've been held by the Savior I've felt fire from above
I've been down to the river I ain't the same a prodigal returned

Chorus

All my hope is in Jesus Thank God that yesterday's gone
All my sins are forgiven I've been washed by the blood

Verse 2

I'm no stranger to prison I've worn shackles and chains
But I've been freed and forgiven
And I'm not going back I'll never be the same That's why I sing

Chorus

All my hope is in Jesus Thank God that yesterday's gone
All my sins are forgiven I've been washed by the blood

Verse 3

I'm no stranger to opinions I've known doubt and felt shame
But I'm alive 'cause He's risen
And He's coming back to be with us again! That's why I sing...

Chorus

All my hope is in Jesus Thank God that yesterday's gone
All my sins are forgiven I've been washed by the blood

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING PRAISE SONG: “Build Your Kingdom Here” Rend Collective

Verse 1

Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again.
Increase in us we pray. Unveil why we're made.

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope like wildfire in our very souls.
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.

Verse 2 We are Your church. We need Your power in us.

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst.
Refuse to waste our lives for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captive hearts released. The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause.

Chorus We are Your church. We pray revive this earth.

Build Your kingdom here! Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire! Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here. We pray!

Verse 3

Unleash Your kingdom's power reaching the near and far.
No force of Hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this! Awake the kingdom seed in us!
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

Chorus We are Your church. We are the hope on earth.

Build Your kingdom here! Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire! Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here. We pray!

Chorus

Build Your kingdom here! Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire! Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here. We pray!

SEND OFF

Leader: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out, strengthening the saved,
All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!