

**JOHN PREPARES THE WAY**

**October 18, 2020**

**8:00 am**



Zion Lutheran Church  
1400 S Duluth Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-338-5226  
[www.zlcsf.org](http://www.zlcsf.org)

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **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).

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN:** LSB 344 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
  
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
  
- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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## **INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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.**

**INTROIT:** Psalm 105:4-8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b

Pastor: Look to the Lord and his strength;

**People: seek his face always.**

Pastor: Remember the wonders he has done,

**People: his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,**

Pastor: you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,

**People: his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.**

Pastor: He is the Lord our God;

**People: his judgments are in all the earth.**

Pastor: He remembers his covenant forever,

**People: the promise he made, for a thousand generations,**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;

**People: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

## **KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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.

**People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

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

**People (sing): Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast**

**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.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**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.**

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

## **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**All: Lord of life and light, as Your Word and call to repentance was spoken by John the Baptist, so speak to us now through that same Word to prepare the way and make straight the paths to receive and welcome Your only-begotten Son that we may have life and bear fruit in Your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **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.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

### **SERMON HYMN**: LSB 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;

- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

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## **SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God; the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**



And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary.....evermore praising you and singing:

**People (sing): Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## **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.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

### **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**People (sing): 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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:** LSB 623 (verses 1-3)

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
    “Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
    “Cast away the works of darkness,  
    All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
    Let the earthbound soul arise;  
    Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
    Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
    Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
    Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
    One and all, to be forgiv’n;

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:** LSB 537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN:** LSB 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

## **DISMISSAL and PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**: LSB 349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.

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### **SEND OFF**

Pastor: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out,  
strengthening the saved,

**All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!**