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## **Supplementary Information**

## Synthesis of high performance N-doped carbon coated on Li<sub>2</sub>ZnTi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> via a NTAassisted solid-state route

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Fig. S1  $N_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of (a) LZTO. (b) LZTO@C-N-1, (c) LZTO@C-N-2 and (d) LZTO@C-N-3. Insets, the pore size distributions of the LZTO and LZTO@C-N anode materials.











Fig. S2 XPS spectra of (a) LZTO@C-N-1, (b) LZTO@C-N-2 and (c) LZTO@C-N-3; high resolution C 1s XPS spectra of (d) LZTO@C-N-1, (e) LZTO@C-N-2 and (f) LZTO@C-N-3; high resolution N 1s XPS spectra of (g) LZTO@C-N-1, (h) LZTO@C-N-2 and (i) LZTO@C-N-3.







250nm



Fig. S3 (a) TEM image and (b) EDS spectrum of LZTO@C-N particles. Corresponding EDS element mappings of (c) C, (d) N, (e) O, (f) Ti and (g) Zn in the LZTO@C-N particles.

| Samples     | Specific surface                       | Total por                    | e Average pore diameter |
|-------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|
|             | area (m <sup>2</sup> g <sup>-1</sup> ) | volume (mL g <sup>-1</sup> ) | (nm)                    |
| LZTO        | 21.1                                   | 0.107                        | 18.4                    |
| LZTO@-C-N-1 | 38.3                                   | 0.268                        | 22.7                    |
| LZTO@C-N-2  | 40.4                                   | 0.189                        | 19.4                    |
| LZTO@C-N-3  | 64.1                                   | 0.234                        | 29.4                    |

Table S1 Specific surface areas, total pore volumes and average pore diameters of LZTO, LZTO@-C-N-1, LZTO@C-N-2 and LZTO@C-N-3.

| Samples    | Content of N (%) |
|------------|------------------|
| LZTO@C-N-1 | 0.2              |
| LZTO@C-N-2 | 0.46             |
| LZTO@C-N-3 | 0.86             |

Table S2 Content of N in the samples of LZTO@C-N-1, LZTO@C-N-2 and LZTO@C-N-3.

Table S3 Electrochemical performance of LZTO in recent publications.

| Material  | Current density (A g <sup>-1</sup> ) | Specific capacity | Reference |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|   |                                      | $(mAh g^{-1})$    |           |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 2                                    | 73                | [1]       |
| Li2ZnTi3O8/KCl  | 1.6                                  | 135.6             | [5]       |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 3.2                                  | 130               | [6]       |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 0.2                                  | 200               | [7]       |
| Li2ZnTi3O8/LiCoO2   | 3                                    | 151.6             | [8]       |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 2                                    | 158.2             | [9]       |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 3                                    | 173.1             | [10]      |
| Li2ZnTi3O8/TiO2   | 3                                    | 180.8             | [11]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 0.454 (2 C)                          | 172.7             | [12]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 3                                    | 142.4             | [13]      |
| Li <sub>1.95</sub> V <sub>0.05</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> | 1.135 (5C)                           | 84.7              | [15]      |
| $Li_{1.95}Na_{0.05}ZnTi_3O_8$   | 0.454 (2 C)                          | 162.3             | [17]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 0.1                                  | 190               | [18]      |
| $Li_2Zn_{0.9}Cu_{0.1}Ti_3O_8$   | 1                                    | 165.4             | [19]      |
| $Li_2ZnAg_{0.15}Ti_{2.85}O_8$   | 2                                    | 136.5             | [21]      |
| Li2ZnTi3O8@Li2MoO   | 2                                    | 112               | [22]      |
| 4   |                                      |                   |           |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 2                                    | 164               | [25]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 2                                    | 145.6             | [26]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 2                                    | 112.5             | [27]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 2                                    | 120               | [28]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 3                                    | 169.1             | [29]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> /C                   | 5                                    | 154.1             | [30]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> @C-N                 | 5                                    | 135               | [31]      |
| Li2ZnTi3O8/La2O3  | 3                                    | 154               | [44]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 5                                    | 133.3             | [45]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>                      | 3                                    | 170.7             | [46]      |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> @C-N                 | 2                                    | 208.7             | The work  |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> @C-N                 | 3                                    | 187.2             | The work  |
| Li <sub>2</sub> ZnTi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> @C-N                 | 5                                    | 165.3             | The work  |