

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Fourth Sunday of Lent March 10, 2024

**(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: We gather in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let us bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will experience the joy of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of abundant goodness,

C: we have hurt those we love, those far from us, ourselves, and your creation by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures and refuse to enjoy what you give. We are too content with the injustice, violence, and hardship that plagues our neighbors. We ignore the gift of your presence. Forgive us for what we do, and what we neglect. Pour out on us the joy of your presence and heal what we have harmed.

P: Friends, receive these joyful words: You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins. You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child. You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs such joy. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 660 *Lift High the Cross

You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.

Refrain

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is the refrain, with lyrics: "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till". The second system continues the refrain with lyrics: "all the world adore his sacred name." The third system contains four verses of the hymn: "1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, 2 All new-born servants of the Crucified, 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:". The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956 Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
 C: And also with you.

***KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
 and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God in whom all things are possible, you teach us that healing is found in the cross, through which you have lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Show us joy in the heart of despair. Heal us and lead us into your light, that our lives would reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

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FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9 (pg. 122 in pew Bible)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10 (pg. 949 in pew Bible)

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation:** Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON as the children come forward, please join in singing:

I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul. I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain, I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul .

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL:** John 3:14-21 (pg. 864 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 3rd Chapter.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Prayer Prompt for March 10:

When have you experienced the transformative power of healing?

Reflecting on your past, can you see God’s provision during a difficult time? Thank God for these gifts.

What source of pain or sorrow do you long to be transformed? Commend this into God’s care in prayer.

*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 107 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, My eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;

The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land,
 The ver - y dy - ing form of one Who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of his face;

A home with - in a wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, Two won - ders I con - fess:
 Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,

From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And bur - dens of the day.
 The won - der of his glo - rious love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
 My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869 © Tune: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927 ST. CHRISTOPHER 7 6 8 6 8 6 8 6

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(after hearing, "Lord in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior ." respond: **Amen**)

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

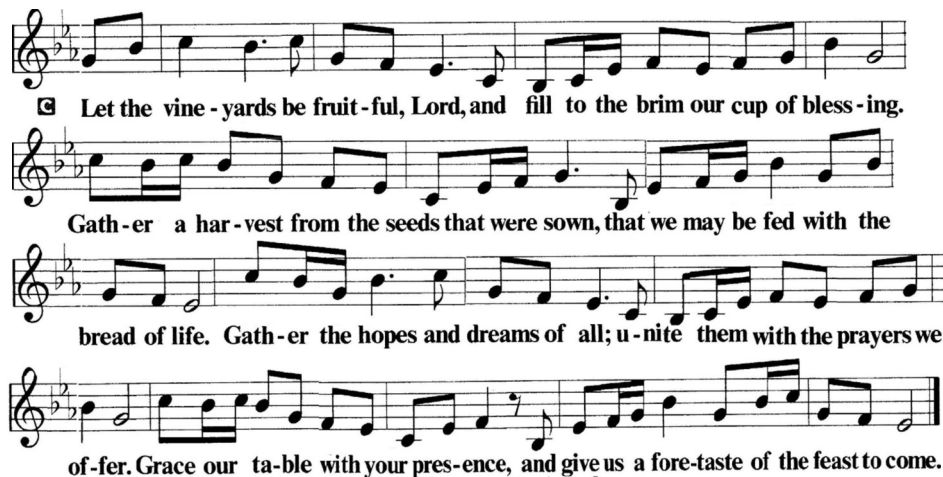
P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time, and regular options.



*OFFERTORY HYMN



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.
Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we
of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

*P: God of mercy and grace, you give us so much: our days, our loved ones, our passions and talents, the food we eat, the homes we know, a place to worship. . . Receive the gifts we offer back to you today. Bless them and bless us, that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely, that our offering would reflect that joy-filled gifts you first give to us. **Amen.**

*HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING

*P: The Lord be with you

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

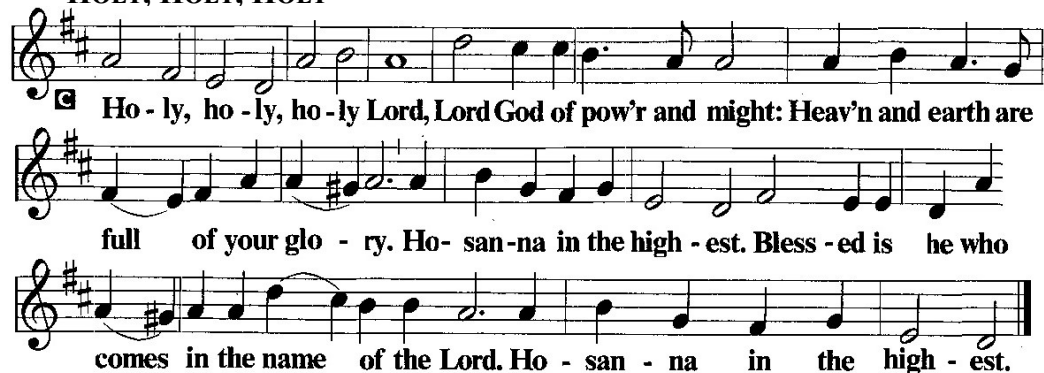
C: **We lift them to God.**

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: God, in every time and in every place, you are present. In every time and every place, you call us to praise you with joy: even here, even now, in our ordinary lives. As we give thanks, we join the choir of our ancestors and our heirs and all God's angels as they time their breath to the rhythm of joy and sing of heaven despite the world.

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho- san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy. Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood. Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future in a covenant promise. Moses cradled your law in his arms and the Israelites found life in the wilderness, where they should have died. Your great love sent us Jesus, Who, clothed with persistent, irrational joy, taught us to love, And then fell like a seed into warm, dark soil as he offered his life for us all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup, Christ’s body and blood, the food that strengthens us to persevere until joy appears. Send your Spirit upon us and fortify us to be your body, too, a wellspring of hope for a world in need. All glory, power, and honor are yours, almighty God, today and every day. **C: Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE LORD’S PRAYER**

P: We pray as Jesus taught us, asking for anything we need:

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done,
 on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give
 those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

***INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take
 a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
 of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMNS: #532 *How Great Thou Art*
 (green book) #300 *O Christ, Our Hope*
 #205 *Now the Silence*

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. C: **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos weaves joy within your own heart. The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows travels right beside you. The One who whispers joy to our hearts is present within you. You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** ELW 803 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a
 prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,
 count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 HAMBURG LM Alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve in love. **C: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshiping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	LECTOR: John Mohn Jr.
VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino	PRAYER: Leah Wolfe
CHILDREN SERMON: Stephanie Livingston	ACOLYTE: Daryl Root
COMM. ASST.: Deb Long, Noel Strattan	CRUCIFER: Rob McQuaide
ZIONS PASTOR: Rev. Caitlin M. Kurtz	
MARCH USHERS: Jim Fowler, Jack Beidler, Joey Northridge, John Mohn Jr.	

NEXT WEEK	Lector: Nancy Ludwig	Acolyte: Madelyn Rittle
	Prayer: Matt Wolfe	Children Sermon: Nancy Ludwig
	Crucifer: Joanna Guldin-Noll	Comm. Asst.: Linda Wenrich,

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Eddie Hudson Jr. and family, Kathryn Hanford, Ronan Northridge, Suzanne, Pastor Ted Hummel, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine.

THIS SATURDAY !! Communion Class on Saturday, March 16 from 10 AM until noon: Children who are interested in learning more about the sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to this class, together with their parent or grandparent. We'll learn about the history and meaning of communion, practice how we receive communion (and why), and also bake bread that the congregation will use for communion the next day. One of Zion's guiding principles is that we are all growing as disciples, all the time. Because of this, this class is appropriate both for children who will be new to the sacrament, and those who have been receiving for a while--we ALL always have room to grow in our understanding of the gift that is Holy Communion. Those who participate in the class will be recognized in worship on Sunday, March 17.

NEXT SUNDAY: Ever wonder what difference the quilts, personal care kits, baby kits, or school kits make? On Sunday, March 17, Emma Wagner from Lutheran World Relief will be with us to share stories testifying to the difference these kits and quilts make in the lives of God's children around the world. Confirmation students, senior high youth, and adults are invited to a special seminar with Emma in the Social Hall beginning at 9:15 AM. Please come, and bring your questions, too!

DEADLINE TODAY! Hersheypark ticket order forms are on the large bulletin board for discount single day tickets and parking passes. The order deadline is Sunday, March 10, and the first weekend the park will be open is March 29-31. If you have questions or want the form e-mailed to you, contact Janet Bird at 717-865-5636 or jbird75@comcast.net.

Lent Mid-week Prayer Around the Cross: Wednesdays at 7 PM in the sanctuary. This quiet, reflective prayer service will teach a variety of modes of prayer, and give us an opportunity to practice them together. Candlelit, piano and guitar will create a peaceful atmosphere you won't want to miss.

During the season of Lent, you are invited to bring in new socks, bras, and underwear for the new NL Clothing Closet. While the closet is well stocked with clothing and shoes, we need help stocking the shelves with new underclothing for our clients. Specifically we are looking for (things listed below). Items can be placed in the hamper in the Gathering Area through Easter. Thank you! Suggested underwear purchasing guide:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Boy's socks - no show or low cut | Boy's underwear – boxer brief |
| Girls' socks – no show or low cut | Girl's underwear – hipster or bikini; <u>No</u> briefs |
| Bras – Sports bras | Men & Women – purchase what you would wear |

Babies & Bibles will meet on Saturday, March 23 at Zions! Children, birth through age 4 (plus adults and older siblings) are invited!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 24, worship begins at 10:30 AM both on the Jonestown Square for the palm processional and in the sanctuary

Thursday, March 28, at 7 PM Maundy Thursday worship in the sanctuary

Friday, March 29 at 7 PM Good Friday worship in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:30 Sunrise Worship in the sanctuary and 10:30 Traditional Worship in the sanctuary

(There will be **NO** Wednesday services on March 27)

Would you like to help enhance the beauty of the rose bushes and surrounds? We are looking for volunteers to help with light weeding that would take about an hour of your time every five or six weeks during spring and summer. Please contact Christine Techky at christinetech2@gmail.com.

Registration for the 2024-25 School Year at Zion's Preschool is now open to everyone: If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our preschool, please email zionspreschool@verizon.net or call Ms. Missy, Director, at 717 222 7412.

Council Highlights: February council highlights are available on the large bulletin board in the gathering area.

Zion's is looking for **GREETERS**. Please contact Noel Strattan if you are able to share your gifts in this way, or click the link on our weekly email.

An **USHER sign-up** sheet has been posted on the large bulletin board in the gathering area. If you can share your gifts as an usher, please sign-up!

A heartfelt **thanks** for the birthday cards and the surprise visit from Christine, Pat & Tom. I had a very good 96th birthday. - Ingrid Erb

It's time to register for Summer Camp! The Lutheran Camping Corporation, with summer camp locations near Lebanon and Gettysburg, offers something for people of all ages. Brochures are available in the windowsills in the Gathering Area, or at www.LutheranCamping.org Zion's offers a scholarship for one week of camp, which can be combined with scholarships from the Camping Corporation. Our scholarship forms are available on the bulletin boards in the Gathering Area. Register by April 1st for the greatest discounts!

<p>Every Week at Zions: Sundays @ 9:15 Sunday school for all ages; @ 10:30 Worship Wednesdays @ 5:30 Community meal, @ 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits Worship</p>
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