

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Fifth Sunday of Lent March 17, 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: LBW 439** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918 CONVERSE 87 87 D

***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: Holy One, your call resonates in the depth of our being, urging us toward places where others need help. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your son, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 642 in pew Bible)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM: Psalm 119:9-16 (pg. 493 in pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Congregation: With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

L: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

C: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

L: With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

C: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

L: I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.

C: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

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**



***GOSPEL:** John 12:20-33 (pg. 875 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 12th Chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Sermon: Emma Wagner, from Lutheran World Relief

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931 T: © 1970 Stephen Somerville
 Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community Text and music © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus

LES PETITES SOEURS
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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:

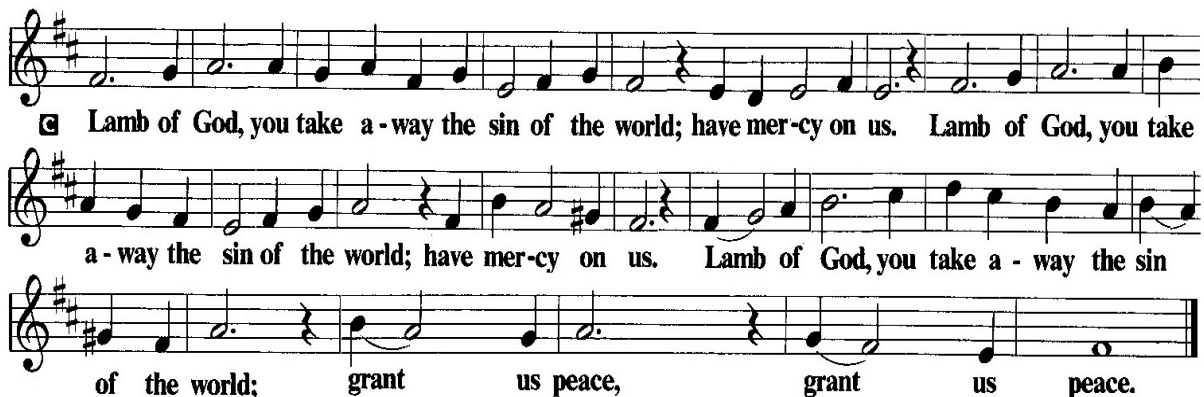


Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give
those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al and de-liv-er us from e-vil.
For the king-dom, the pow'r, and 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: #705 *As the Grains of Wheat*
 (blue book) #702 *I Am the Bread of Life*
 #740 *Jesus, Remember Me*

***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:** LBW 448 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (next page)

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 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, That
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re-lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and

now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807 Tune: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. NEW BRITAIN CM

***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 worshipping 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: Nancy Ludwig
VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino	PRAYER: Matt Wolfe
CHILDREN SERMON: Nancy Ludwig	ACOLYTE: Madelyn Rittle
COMM. ASST.: Linda Wenrich	CRUCIFER: Joanna Guldin-Noll
ZIONS PASTOR: Rev. Caitlin M. Kurtz	
MARCH USHERS: Jim Fowler, Jack Beidler, Joey Northridge, John Mohn Jr.	

NEXT WEEK

Lector: John Noll	Acolyte: Derek Wolfe
Prayer: Izaac McQuaide	Children Sermon: Christine Techky
Crucifer: Xander McQuaide	Comm. Asst.: Kelly Rittle, Eva Frank

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Hal & Lori Weinborg, Jeanette Gill, Jean Fowler, Eddie Hudson Jr. & family, Kathryn Hanford, Ronan Northridge, Suzanne, Pastor Ted Hummel, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine.

Today we welcome Emma Wagner from Lutheran World Relief to share stories testifying to the difference the LWR kits and quilts make in the lives of God's children around the world. Emma has a MA in Public Leadership from the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and serves as Senior Advisor of Congregational Engagement for Lutheran World Relief.

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.

Babies & Bibles will meet on Saturday, March 23 at Zions at 4PM! 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

There will be **NO** Prayer Around the Cross on **March 27,** but Rejoicing Spirits **WILL BE** held.

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 with Easter prelude beginning at 10:10 am.

(NO Sunday School or Confirmation class on this day)

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 |

****IMPORTANT NOTICE**** The lower level (basement) bathrooms and sinks, and the kitchen sinks will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** on Monday and Tuesday afternoon/evening

Did you know? Zion's has a quilt-making group called "**Peace Through Pieces**" that meets MOST Wednesday mornings at 9 AM in the Social Hall. They primarily work on large quilts for Lutheran World Relief, but also complete smaller quilts for our preschool graduates. They are always accepting fabric donations of any size, and love to welcome newcomers! You don't have to have any experience with fabric or thread--they'll teach you what you need to know! If you're interested in learning more, or want to confirm a meeting date, please contact Judy Merkel: 717 269 3532 or johnjudymerkel@comcast.net

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.

Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 19 @ 6:30.

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!

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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