



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

April 6, 2025 ✝ The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, and Friend, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. In this service for Week 5 of Lent, we look to Jesus who comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in his promises.

✝ GATHERING ✝

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Confession & Forgiveness

We gather together as friends in the healing presence of the Triune God.
We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sin threatens to separate us from the comfort we have in Jesus.
Let us confess our sins to Jesus, our Savior, Servant, and Friend.

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

Comforting and forgiving God,
we have sought comfort and peace in all the wrong places.
We have tried to comfort ourselves by our own desires.
We have failed to comfort others as we should.
We have torn down and harmed, slandered and lied.
We have found no comfort or peace in our sin and shame.
Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God!

Jesus faced the discomfort and pain of the cross
in order to forgive us of all our sins.

In the stead and by the command of our friend, Jesus Christ, and
by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins
and the comforting assurance that you are set free from sin and shame.
Amen. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Gathering Song

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

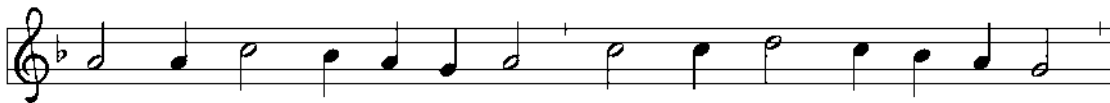
#256



- 1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
- 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near.
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551
Public Domain

Call to Worship

Comfort, comfort my people

Says your God. (*Isaiah 40:1*)

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil

For you are with me

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (*Psalms 23:4*)

This is my comfort in my affliction,

That your promise gives me life. (*Psalms 119:50*)

Let your steadfast love comfort me

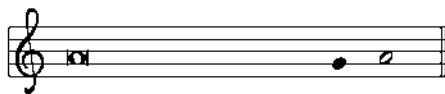
According to your promise to your servant. (*Psalms 119:76*)

The Greeting

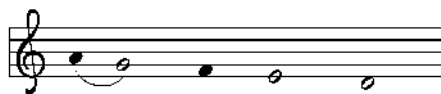
The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ Jesus,
bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

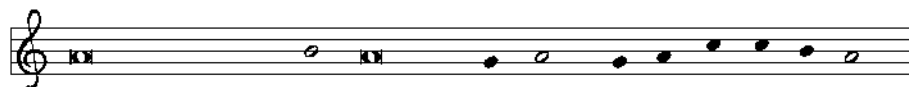
ELW setting 4



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



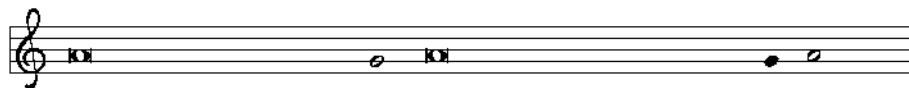
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



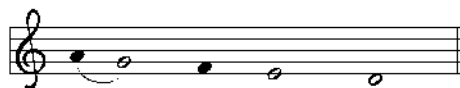
Lord, have mer - cy.



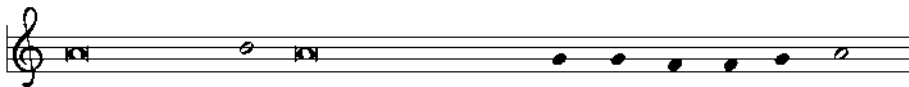
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Almighty and everlasting God,
as we venture deeper into this Lenten season,
draw us into an ever deeper friendship with you.
Give us your Holy Spirit so that we can hear your Word,
trust in your promises, fix our eyes on the cross,
and be comforted by your loving-kindness.
We pray this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Paul emphasizes the concept of God as the "God of all comfort," highlighting how God comforts believers in their suffering so that they can then offer comfort to others facing similar trials. Sharing in Christ's sufferings allows for us to share in his comfort as well.

A reading from Second Corinthians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lenten Verse

ELW setting 4



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.

Holy Gospel

John 11:17-27

Jesus comforts his disciples and promises to return to them after his death. This passage is part of a larger section of John 14 where Jesus teaches his disciples how to find peace in a troubled world.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Comforter

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace

#779



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		
5	When	we've	been	there	ten	thou	-	sand	years,	bright		

(Hymn continues on the next page)



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
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



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.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.
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Apostle's Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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.**

Prayers of the People

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer
for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A Nothing is impossible for Jesus, and, so, we pray
knowing that he can do immeasurably more
than what we ask or imagine.

Lord Jesus, bring comfort to every corner of your creation,
and assure us with your promise
to one day wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

P Comfort our deepest hurts and sorrows,
and remind us that nothing is too far broken
for your hope and healing.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

A Comfort the vulnerable and lonely, the weak and powerless,
the grieving and impoverished —
all the while using us as instruments of your comforting friendship.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

P Heal those suffering from illness or disease, especially...
Comfort those who are near the point of death
and being called to your nearer presence.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

A Comfort us when we are afflicted by sin
and assure us of your forgiveness —
yet, bring discomfort to the parts of our lives
that are far too comfortable in sin and waywardness.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and protect us unto eternity.**

A Comfort your church around the world, especially the faithful
gathered in places that are hostile toward the Christian faith.

Lord, hear our prayer, **and comfort us as only you can.**

P Receive the prayers of your people
and draw all things together in your love,
in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

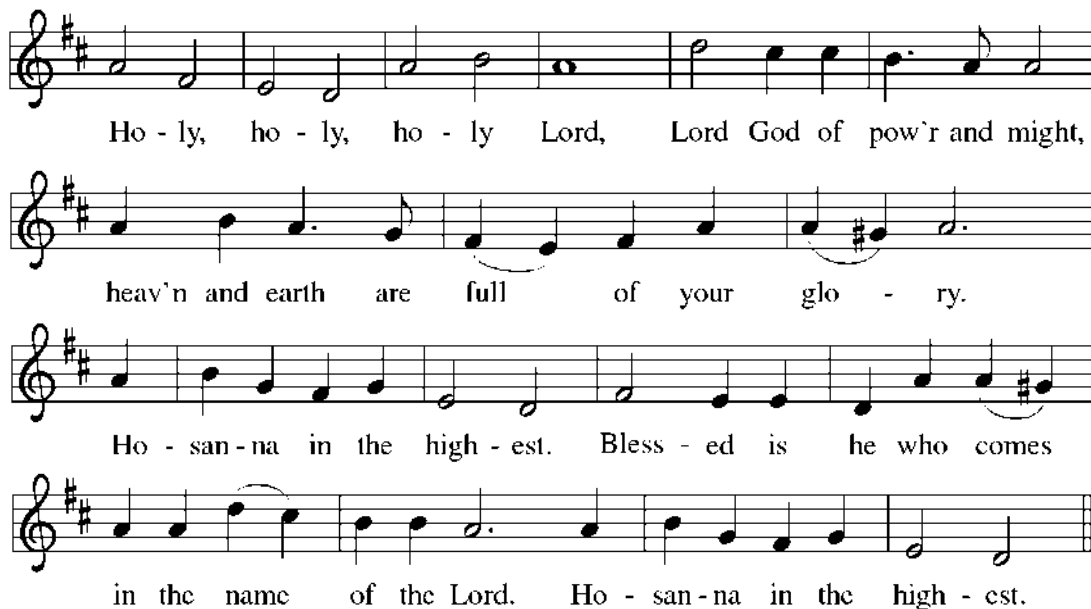
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW setting 4



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.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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, Jesus 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.

With this bread and cup

we remember our Lord's passover from death to life

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

ELW setting 4



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.

Distribution with silence for meditation

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God,
and, so, receive this blessing:

The Lord bless and comfort you in all your afflictions
so that you can be a blessing and a comfort to all in their afflictions.

Amen. What a friend we have in Jesus!

Sending Song

Blessed Assurance

#638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest.



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love,
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
 Music: ASSURANCE Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jumble



"Our _____ Lazarus has fallen asleep;
 but I am going there to wake him up."
 John 11:11b (NIV)

LFIE

	3	1	

DEDA

6	4		

RSIE

	2		

STNOE

				5

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	E	S	L	E	E	P	M	P
Q	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	B	D	F	L	Y	U
L	J	O	A	S	O	W	D	Y	L	I	F	E	V	L
F	N	I	K	T	W	E	I	X	L	G	T	O	M	B
X	Y	K	S	C	Q	E	S	F	O	E	D	Z	N	R
P	R	A	Y	E	D	P	C	F	V	R	E	E	E	D
B	K	Q	W	E	S	I	I	A	E	C	A	H	V	X
G	L	F	K	K	N	N	P	O	A	V	T	C	V	R
R	L	A	Z	U	K	G	L	G	T	O	H	G	A	E
I	W	O	H	F	E	E	E	Z	R	R	H	H	V	R
S	F	C	R	X	J	W	S	B	J	T	T	E	S	A
E	H	W	Y	Y	N	Y	B	N	S	R	I	U	W	A
L	W	B	P	O	M	A	R	Y	A	L	S	H	M	K
G	C	Q	L	W	H	J	S	M	E	E	R	A	X	G
B	H	A	E	U	U	Q	H	B	J	S	I	C	K	V

MARY
JESUS
PRAYED
ENTRANCE

WAKE
STONE
WEeping
LOVE

SICK
DISCIPLES
GLORY
DEATH

LAZARUS
LIFE
MARTHA
TOMB

BROTHER
BELIEVE
RISE
SLEEP