

Midweek Lenten Worship
Zion Lutheran Church
Albion, Nebraska
February 25, 2026
7:00pm



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

MOUNT SINAI

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

MOSES
 SHAVUOT
 TENTS
 TWELVE TRIBES
 AARON
 EXODUS

MOUNT SINAI
 ALTAR
 SET APART
 FIRE
 COMMANDMENTS
 YAHWEH

ISRAELITES
 PRIESTS
 COVENANT
 CLOUD
 SHOFAR
 THUNDER

Mt. Sinai

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In the hills and valleys of our lives,
**Jesus walks with us, calls us to follow him
 and offers us his redemptive love.**

The act of confessing our sin
 is not simply a recitation of our faults and wrongs,
**it's an opportunity to receive God's mercy
 and share in His abundant grace.**

Confident of God's love for us, let us confess our sins...

(A moment of silence is kept.)

Holy God,
**you descended upon Mount Sinai in fire and thunder
 to call us as your own, and we approach you with trembling hearts.
 You gave us the Law, a path to life and holiness,
 yet we confess that we have not walked in it.
 Like the people in the wilderness,
 we have grown impatient for your presence
 and have turned to the idols of our own making —
 worshipping comfort, money, success, and self.
 We have broken the covenant you so graciously made with us,
 choosing our own way over your righteous commands.
 We have often condoned evil, allowed greed to fill our hearts,
 and failed to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 Our hearts are often unclean,
 and our actions inconsistent with your holy law.
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
 do not treat us as our sins deserve. Turn your face from our sins
 and cover our transgressions with your mercy.
 Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us,
 that we may walk in your ways and serve you alone.
 Through Jesus Christ our Savior,
 who fulfilled the law for us, we pray. Amen.**

Jesus calls us follow him, and he will not lead us astray.
 His path is one of forgiveness, grace, and renewal.
 The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
 In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
 that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Hymn *In the Desert, On God's Mountain* (Tune #490, v1-3)

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 Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.
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Hymn *In the Desert, On God's Mountain* (Tune #490, v. 4-6)

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 Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.
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Dismissal

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

Let them know the saving power of your promised victory,
for by the death of Jesus Christ, you have destroyed our death forever.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, by the victory of Jesus Christ,
now lead us onward to the Promised Land.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

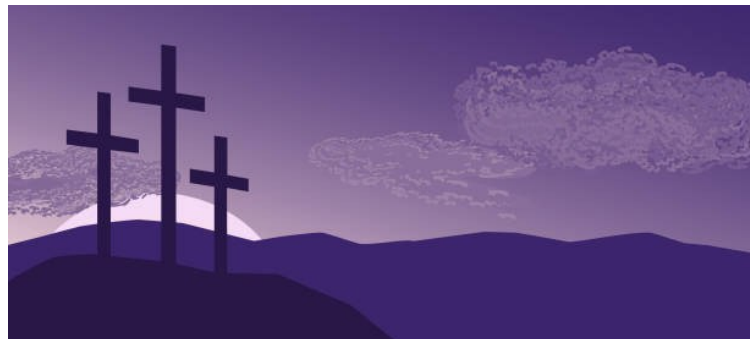
Lord's Prayer

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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Benediction

Whatever hill or wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. **Amen.**



Opening Litany

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem.
**As once you led your chosen people from slavery to freedom
by your grace, now lead us on our sacred pilgrimage.**

Everything that is written of the Son of Man by the prophets
will be accomplished.

**As once you spoke to Moses in the wilderness,
revealing there your saving will, now speak to us;
and give us grace to hear and to believe in him
who is your living Word.**

For he will be delivered to the Gentiles,
and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.
**As once you drowned your people's foes beneath the rushing waves,
subdue for us the ancient foe who seeks to keep us
from obeying you with true and willing hearts.**

They will scourge him and kill him.
**As once you heard the cries of those oppressed by bondage,
hear now, we pray, the cries of all who call to you in every need,
and let them know the saving power of your promised victory,
for by the death of Jesus Christ,
you have destroyed our death forever.**

And on the third day he will rise.
**Lord, by the victory of Jesus Christ,
now lead us onward to the Promised Land. Amen.**

Apostolic Greeting

The love of God, the Father,
the grace of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.



Kyrie *Lord, Be Glorified* #744



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text & Music: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
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Prayer of the Day

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

God of compassion,

you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself.

Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy,

we may freely share the blessings of your realm

and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 19:1-6, 16-25

A reading from Exodus.

¹On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day, they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ²They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites:

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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence is kept.

As once you led your chosen people from slavery to freedom by your grace, now lead us on our sacred pilgrimage.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As once you spoke to Moses in the wilderness, revealing there your saving will, now speak to us; and give us grace to hear and to believe in him who is your living Word. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As once you drowned your people's foes beneath the rushing waves, subdue for us the ancient foe who seeks to keep us from obeying you with true and willing hearts.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As once you heard the cries of those oppressed by bondage, hear now, we pray, the cries of all who call to you in every need, *especially...*

the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But 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.”

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

Sermon

Mt. Sinai

Hymn of the Day

Remember God is Gracious

(Tune #654)



Re - mem-ber God is grac - ious, and know what God has done!
God did not send us Je - sus in judg-ment to con-demn;
Your love, Lord, leads us out - ward to love the world you freed —



God loved the world so much that he gave his on - ly Son.
He sent him as a prom-ise, so we'd be saved through him.
To care for your cre - a - tion, to help all those in need;



Now all those who be - lieve him, who trust in Je - sus Christ,
Our Sav - ior came to free us not just for heav-en's joy
We wel - come in the strang-er for we were stran-gers, too.



Can know they will not per - ish; they'll have e - ter - nal life.
But here, where so much need is, where sin seeks to de - stroy.
O God, we pray for cour - age to love the world with you.

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⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. ¹⁹As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. ²⁰When the LORD descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. ²¹Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down and warn the people not to break through to the LORD to look; otherwise many of them will perish. ²²Even the priests who approach the LORD must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.” ²³Moses said to the LORD, “The people are not permitted to come up to Mount Sinai; for you yourself warned us, saying, ‘Set limits around the mountain and keep it holy.’” ²⁴The LORD said to him, “Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you; but do not let either the priests or the people break through to come up to the LORD; otherwise he will break out against them.” ²⁵So Moses went down to the people and told them.

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

Psalm 121

Let us read Psalm 121 responsively.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?

²**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶**The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 3:4-7a, 11-18

A reading from Second Corinthians.

⁴Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.

⁵Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, ⁶who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside...¹¹ for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory!

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

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



Lenten Verse

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

#509

God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while
time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

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Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
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Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to