



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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## February 18, 2024 ✝ The First Sunday in Lent

*Welcome to Week One in The Parables of Lent series of services, which is based on the parable of the sower and the seed. In this parable, the seed that falls on fertile soil takes root and grows, while seeds in other soils fail. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon and thematic hymns that help us to remember that when we are open to receiving the Word, the Word of Christ flourishes within us.*

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### ✝ 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.

THE PARABLES  
OF LENT

# FIRST SUNDAY **IN** LENT

## Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

In this holy season  
the Son of God humbles himself so that we receive mercy.  
**Humble me once again, O God,  
that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

In this holy season  
the Son of God spreads the seed of his Word over our hearts.  
**Make our hearts the good soil, O God,  
that receives your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**

In this holy season  
the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.  
**Grant me your grace, O God,  
that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

Our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of God's Word.  
Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives  
to our Lord who hears and forgives.

*(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that our very nature is sinful.  
Our hearts are too often the "path"  
where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown.  
Our hearts are too often the "rocky ground"  
where trial and difficulty make us fall away.  
Our hearts are too often the "thorns"  
that choke God's Word and keep it from being fruitful.  
Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away the grace of God  
and growing only sin and deceit.  
It is proven in our wicked thoughts, words and deeds.  
Forgive us, most holy God.**

The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of his Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because his heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

*Seed That in Earth Is Dying*

#330

1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much

grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,

turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!

faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929  
 English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944  
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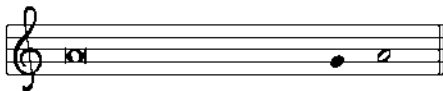
## Apostolic Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie

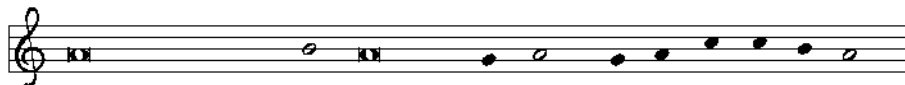
*ELW setting 4*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



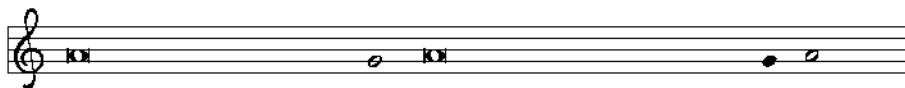
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



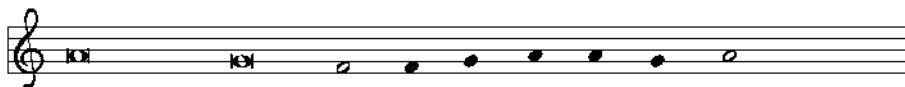
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



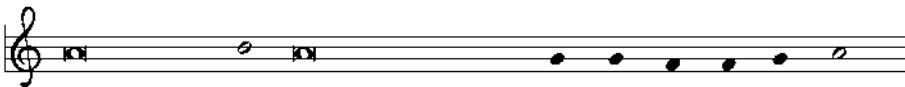
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.)*

Heavenly Father,

**you scattered the seed of your Word  
on the heart of your only-begotten Son.**

**There it took root, sprouted and grew perfectly.**

**Make our hearts the perfect soil where the fruit of faith is grown.  
Amen.**

## SS Choir Anthem

### *Stop! Let Me Tell You*

Stop; and let me tell you what the Lord has done for me.

Stop; and let me tell you what the Lord has done for me.

He forgave my sin and He saved my soul,

He cleansed my heart and He made me whole.

Stop; and let me tell you what the Lord has done for me.

Go and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary,

Go and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary:

He'll forgive their sins; He will save their souls,

He'll cleanse their hearts; He will make them whole.

Go and tell the story of the Christ of Calvary.

Watch and be ye ready, for the Lord may come today.

Watch and be ye ready, for the Lord may come today.

He will come again in the clouds for me

And take me home for eternity.

Watch and be ye ready, for the Lord may come today.

✠ **WORD** ✠

## First Reading

Jeremiah 7:1-7

*Today's reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

<sup>1</sup>The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word

of the LORD, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. <sup>4</sup>Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD."

<sup>5</sup>For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, <sup>6</sup>if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, <sup>7</sup>then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Colossians 1:3-14

*A reading from Colossians.*


<sup>3</sup>In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup>This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

<sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

<sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

<sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>18</sup>Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

## Children's Time Sermon

### Hymn of the Day *Christ's Kingdom is Made Known* (Tune: #599)



We list - en as the Word like scat - tered seed is sown,  
On soil of ev - ry kind the prec - ious seed we sow  
In ev' - ry time of need, be - fore the judg - ment throne,



For as each par - a - ble is heard Christ's king - dom is made known.  
that in good soil the Word might find a place to thrive and grow  
Your work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your mer - its, not my own.

Text: By Dean Nadasdy and Tom Eggebrecht.  
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Music: W. Daman, The Psalmes of Daud, 1579, alt.; Public Domain

## 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 Christ in our journey of repentance  
and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

A God of the good soil,  
prevent our hearts from becoming concrete sidewalks,  
rocky ground, or thorny patches.  
Instead make them into fertile soil that understands your Word  
and bears fruit that lasts.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

P God of the good soil,  
use your Word to guide, direct, and change the hearts  
of all local, state, national, and international leaders,  
that your same Word would be preached freely  
and change the hearts of many.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

A God of the good soil, make your Church  
the place where the seed of your Word always finds fertile soil.  
As it falls freely, strengthen the faith of all hearts and souls who hear,  
and keep them in that same faith to life everlasting.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

P God of the good soil,  
in the ministry of your Son, Jesus, he used the words of his mouth  
to heal those who were ill  
and bring wholeness to those who were in need.  
Please use that very same Word to bring health and wholeness  
to those in need near and dear to us, especially...  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

A God of the good soil,  
we pray for those who, hearing the word,  
hold it fast in an honest and good heart,  
and bear fruit with patience.  
We pray for the members of this church, those who are visiting,

those joining us online or cable.  
Lord, let our hearts be good soil.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

A God of the good soil,  
we remember the saints who have gone before us,  
whose hearts were the good soil  
that heard and understood your Word.  
Help us to follow in their ways so that our hearts, like theirs,  
bring forth fruit a hundredfold.  
Sower of the seeds, **make your Word take root and grow.**

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Peace

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

## ✠ OFFERING ✠

### Offering Response

### *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

#512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

✠ MEAL ✠

**Great Thanksgiving**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

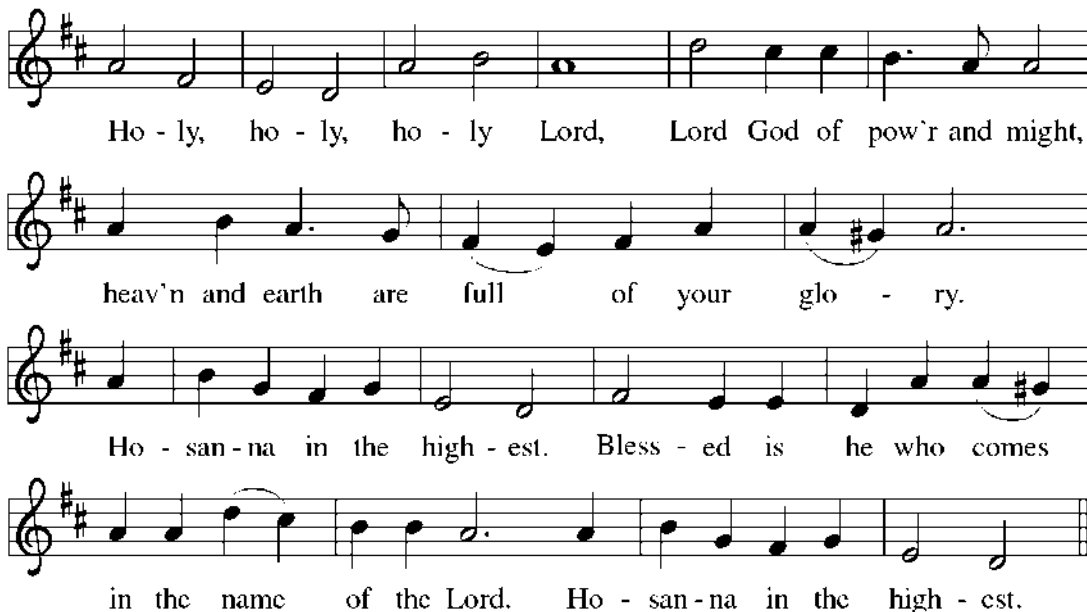
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,

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, 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.*

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**

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.)*

Merciful God,

**accompany our journey through these forty days.**

**Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may  
provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need,  
fast from self-indulgence, and above all  
that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

## Announcements

### Benediction

You have received the Word.

Now receive the blessing of God who has sown that Word:  
the God of the good soil, who plants the seed of his Word in your hearts,  
make it take root, and sprout, and grow, producing fruit a hundredfold.  
**Amen.**

### Sending Song

### *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

#516



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de-scend and righ-teous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun-dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.  
Music: J. Day, Psalter, 1562  
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## Dismissal

Planted in Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Amen. Thanks be to God.

# The Parable of the Sower

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a

Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



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

PLANTS	SCORCH	FARMER	THORNS	CROP
WITHER	BIRDS	ROOT	CHOKE	SOIL
FELL	PARABLE	SCATTER	SEED	GREW
ROCKY	SHALLOW	GOOD	SOW	PATH

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