



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

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

February 22, 2026 † The First Sunday in Lent

In this service, the place of the Passion is Bethany, the place where Jesus is anointed for burial by his friend Mary, at her home in this small town. We are called to prepare our hearts for Christ's death as well, while still looking toward the fragrant surprise of the empty tomb. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with Bethany help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

† GATHERING †

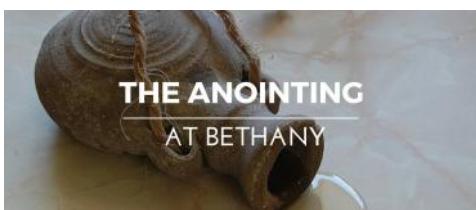
Prelude

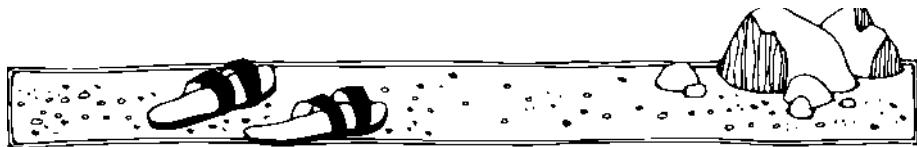
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of 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.





First Sunday In Lent

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God,
who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Our Gospel reading tells us that Mary came up to Jesus
with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment,
and poured it on his head as he reclined at the table.

We are not always as generous with our resources or our time.
Let us confess our sin before God,
who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

**Forgiving God,
too often, our giving is nothing like Mary's.**

**Our sinful nature encourages us to get more than give —
to get even, get back and get revenge,
to get more, get ahead and get on top.**

We are consumed with consuming.

**We are driven by selfish desires
and become passionate about possessions.**

**We are too much like the other disciples, and too little like Mary.
Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

Hear the good news!

Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death for you.
Jesus was determined

to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha for you.

That's why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally.

Faithful Lord, with me abide!

I shall follow where you guide!

Gathering Song *God, We Sense Your Peace and Power* (Tune: #807)



1 God, we sense your peace and pow-er in this place we love so much.
2 Once a wo - man came to Je-sus, pour-ing oint-ment on his head.
3 God, your world is filled with fra-grance; smells sur-round the things we do.



We are moved by gen-tle fra-gance; we are blessed by heal-ing touch.
Some com-plain-ed, "She could have sold this- should have helped the poor in-stead.
Sweat from work and smoke in cook-ing both are off - er - ings to you.



In these pews we hear the gos - pel; we see life be - yond com-pare.
Yet the Lord knew well the val - ue of that per-fume that she poured.
Oils of heal - ing, scent-ed flow-ers car - ry with them love and care.



Here we gath - er at your ta - ble, tas-ting love in meals we share.
In that way she said, "I love you" to her Sav - ior, friend and Lord.
All the smells of pot-luck sup-pers bring the joy of life we share.

Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; Public Domain
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Opening Litany

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

To see the depths of his love.

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

We walk with Jesus to Bethany.

And into the house of Simon the leper.

Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.

Faithful Lord, with me abide.

I shall follow where you guide!

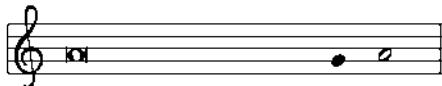
The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

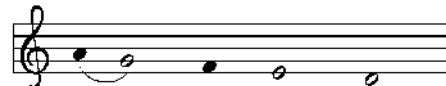
And also with you.

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 - va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



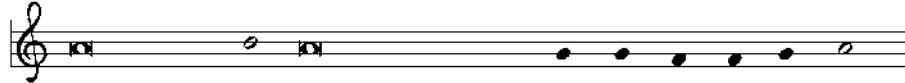
Lord, have mer - cy.



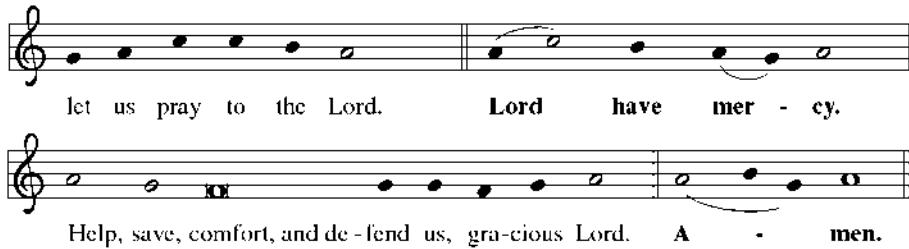
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Prayer of the Day

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

Lord God, heavenly Father,

we thank you for Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, for through her generosity

we catch a glimpse of your joyful and generous kingdom.

By your Spirit's power enable us to live and give like her; 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

Exodus 36:1-7

This reading marks the transition from planning to action in building the Tabernacle, highlighting God-gifted artisans, Bezalel and Oholiab, leading a willing, generous, and highly skilled workforce. The people of Israel donated so abundantly that Moses had to restrain them from bringing more, as the materials were more than sufficient for the project.

A reading from Exodus.

¹“Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful one to whom the Lord has given skill and understanding to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.”

²Moses then called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful one to whom the Lord had given skill, everyone whose heart was stirred to come to do the work, ³and they received from Moses all the freewill offerings that the Israelites had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, ⁴so that all the artisans who were doing every sort of task on

the sanctuary came, each from the task being performed,⁵ and said to Moses, “The people are bringing much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.”⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing;⁷ for what they had already brought was more than enough to do all the work.

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

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Paul highlights the "grace of God" manifested in the Macedonian churches, who, despite severe trials and extreme poverty, gave joyfully and generously to help fellow believers in Jerusalem. This passage sets a standard for sacrificial, voluntary, and earnest giving that is rooted in self-surrender to God.

A reading from Second Corinthians.

¹We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia,² for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.³ For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means,⁴ begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints⁵ and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.

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 26:6-13

This is a story of an act of extravagant love and worship that serves as an informal burial anointing shortly before Jesus' crucifixion. While the disciples criticize this as a waste, Jesus honors her devotion.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, “Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.”

¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

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

Children's Time

Sermon

Bethany

Hymn of the Day

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

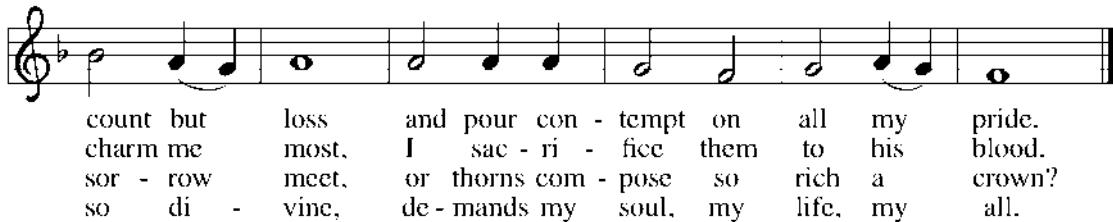
#803



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 c'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
 Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, 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,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come 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 Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,
 let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A God of all grace, grant faith to your church.
 Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation
 and to worship and serve you alone.
 Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P God of all creation, tend this earth.
When human greed and disobedience
threaten this planet and the life it contains,
lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all nations, preserve us from trouble.
Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love
and give resilience to all who work for peace.
Grant courage to those who challenge,
especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P God of all healing, mend our wounds.
Bring wholeness to all who are sick,
give peace to all who groan in grief,
and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.
Especially we pray for . . .
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all people, provide for our community.
For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment.
For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A God of all life, bring us to you.
We thank you for your free and abounding grace,
and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

† 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.)*

God of salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✚ SENDING ✚

Announcements

Benediction

Jesus invites us to walk with him to Jerusalem, a place of great suffering and a place of great love.

We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb and resurrection victory. Amen.

Sending Song

Take My Life, That I May Be

#685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

Music: William Havergal, 1793-1870

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Dismissal

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



Mary took a jar of expensive _____
and poured it on the feet of Jesus. Then she
dried his feet with her hair. (John 12:3)

OOPR

1	3		

TEEF

4	2		

OHEUS

5	7		

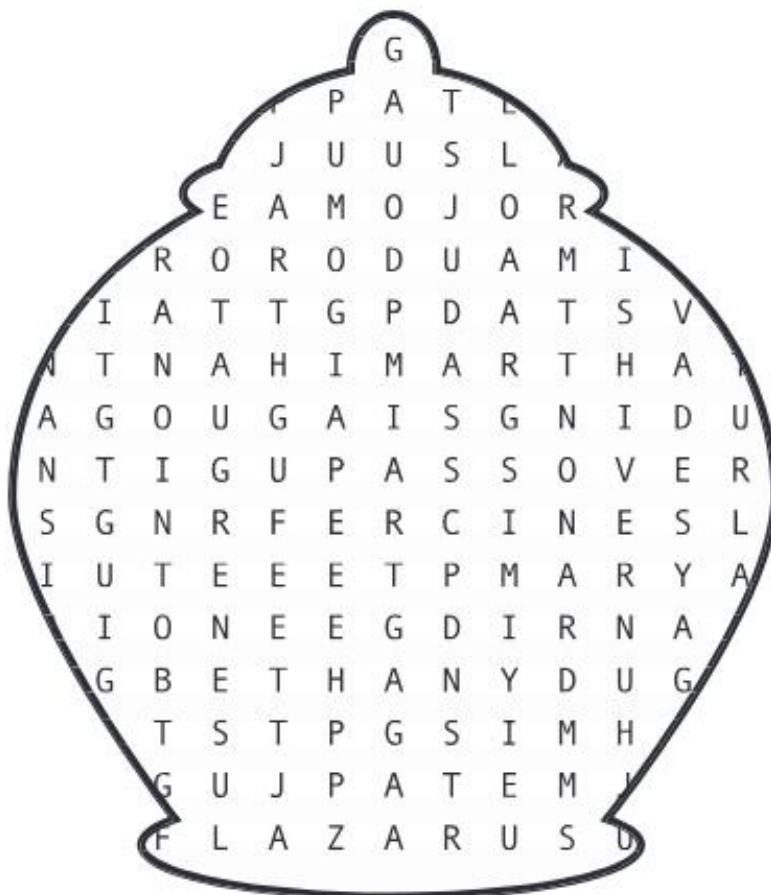
YNOEM

6			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mary Honored Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.



ANOINT	BETHANY	FEET	JAR
JUDAS	LAZARUS	MARTHA	MARY
NARD	PASSOVER		