



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 10, 2024 ✝ The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Week Four in The Parables of Lent series of services, which is based on the parable of the workers in the vineyard. In this parable, all workers in a vineyard are given the same pay from the master, no matter how long they have labored. The service includes readings from Scripture, a children's sermon, a sermon and thematic hymns that help us to remember that all who have been called by the Master are blessed by the same reward in Christ.

✝ 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

FOURTH 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 reminds us that his heavenly Father
provides us with everything we need, though we deserve nothing.

**Remind me once again, O God,
that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

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.**

Too often in our selfishness
we feel as though we deserve more than we receive.
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.
We do not love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
We do not love our neighbors as ourselves.
Far too often we feel as though we are slighted
and deserve more than we receive.**

**We are mistaken when we think that we ought to make great gain
for simply doing what we have been called to do as your children.
By our selfishness we have sinned against you
and against others in thought, word and deed.
Forgive us, most holy God.**

The Lord Jesus came into this world
to take upon himself that which he did not deserve: he took on
our suffering and death as a punishment for our sin and selfishness.
Because he got what he did not deserve on the cross,
we get what we do not deserve: forgiveness, life and salvation.
Receive now the priceless gift he paid for:
all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Lord, Whose Lord in Humble Service

#712



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
- 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go.



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom: still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give.



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part,
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole,
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share,
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
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Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844, arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress
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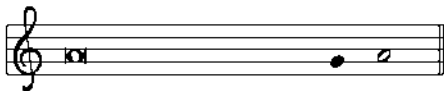
Apostolic Greeting

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

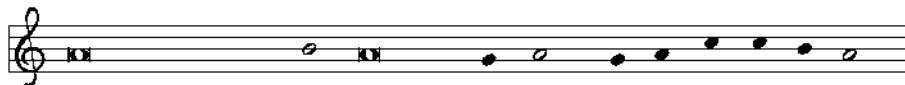
ELW setting 4



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



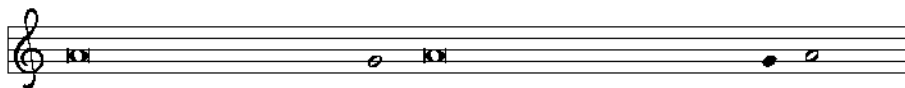
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



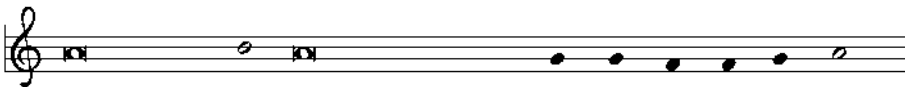
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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...

Heavenly Father,

**the gifts that you provide for us each and every day
are worth more than we could ever imagine.**

**Though we do not deserve them,
we thank you for them from the bottom of our hearts,
and pray that you would enable all people
to receive the gifts of your love and grace now,
or even at their last hour. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 9:14-24

A reading from Romans.

¹⁴What then are we to say? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy. ¹⁷For the scripture says to Pharaoh, "I have raised you up for the very purpose of showing my power in you, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses. ¹⁹You will say to me then, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; ²³and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory — ²⁴including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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)



1 We list - en as the Word like scat - tered seed is sown,
2 Al - though you tend the vine, and la - bor all the day,
3 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.
Should I not pay with what is mine, my grace and love dis - play?
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, who gives us everything we need, remind us always
that it is an honor to serve you and labor in your kingdom.
Forgive us for thinking we deserve any of your good gifts,
and enable us to appreciate all that you give to us
and the blessings you give to others.
Master of the kingdom, **thank you for your grace.**

P God, who gives us everything we need,
all the kingdoms of this world would not exist
if it weren't for your allowing it to be so.
Please use the leaders of all kingdoms
to bring your mercy to all people
so that the world lives in peace and without fear.
Master of the kingdom, **thank you for your grace.**

A God, who gives us everything we need,
it is your will that all people know you
and come to salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Use your Church, and all of her members,
to be servants in your kingdom who bring people to faith.
Master of the kingdom, **thank you for your grace.**

P God, who gives us everything we need,
your kingdom welcomes all those who are weak, ill or suffering.
We ask your grace and favor upon all those near and dear to us
who are in need of healing, especially.... According to your will,
give them the gifts they need to be made whole.
Master of the kingdom, **thank you for your grace.**

A God, who gives us everything we need,
we remember before you all who have gone before us in the faith,
who came to know you and serve you
at the beginning, middle or end of their lives.

Thank you for the gift they were to us, and enable us to be a gift to others now in time, and there in eternity. Master of the kingdom, **thank you for your grace.**

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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#184

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.

Text: John W. Arthur (1922-1980)

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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✠ 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:

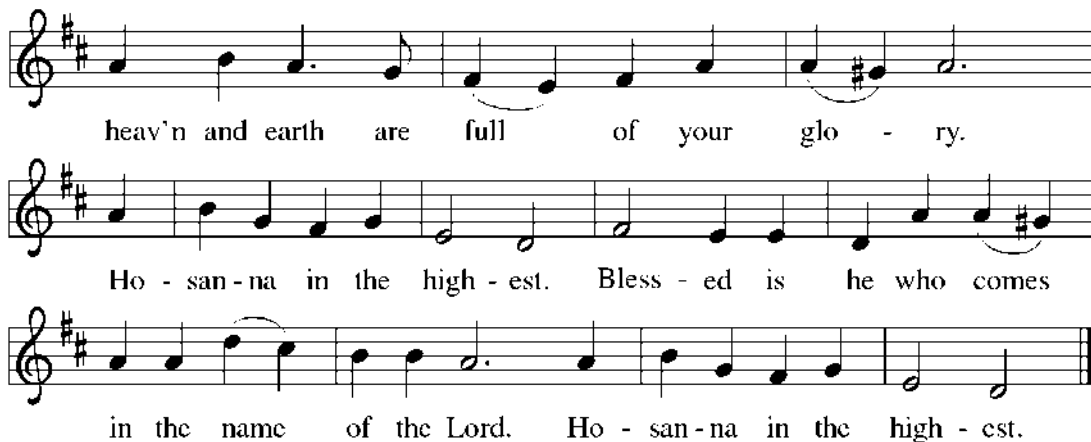
Sanctus

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 God's grace through Christ Jesus.
Receive now his blessing:
The God who gives generously to us all,
grant you his good gift of life together with him in his kingdom. **Amen.**

Sending Song

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

(LBW #368)



1 I love your king - dom, Lord, the place of your a - bode;
2 I love your church, O God! Its walls be - fore you stand,
3 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
4 Sure as your truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be giv'n



the church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.
dear as the ap - ple of your eye and grav - en on your hand.
its sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, its hymns of love and praise.
the bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817, alt.
Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776
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Dismissal

Having received God's grace, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

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The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



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

MONEY	HOUR	EQUAL	WORKERS	VINEYARD
LANDOWNER	HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	KINGDOM	GENEROUS
WAGES	HIRED	UNFAIR	RIGHT	RECEIVED