



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 16, 2025 + The Second 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 2 of Lent, we embrace the news that Jesus listens to us like no other and answers all our questions and concerns.

+ 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.



SECOND 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.**

Be gracious to us, Lord Jesus, and hear us as we confess our sins to you.

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

Listening Lord,

forgive me for all that I have done to harm my neighbors.

Forgive me for all that I have failed to do.

**Forgive me for the ways that I have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed.**

Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Listen now to God's Good News!

Our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus, has heard us confess our sins.

He nailed our sins to the cross and threw them into the tomb.

They are forgiven, and they are gone.

Hear these words now as though they were spoken by Jesus himself:

Friends, your sins are forgiven.

Amen. What a friend we have in Jesus.

Gathering Song

Come, My Soul, with Every Care

(Tune #693)



Come my soul with ev' - ry care Je - sus loves to an - swer pray'r
With my bur - den I be - gin: Lord, re-move this load of sin;
While I am a pil - grim here, let your love my spir - it cheer.



He Him-self bids you to pray. He will nev - er turn a - way
let your blood, for sin - ners spilt, set my con-science free from guilt.
As my guide, my guard, my friend, lead me to my jour-ney's end,



You are com - ing to a king, large pe - ti - tions with you bring.
Lord, your rest to me im - part; take pos - ses - sion of my heart.
show me what is mine to do; ev' - ry hour my strength re - new.



For his grace and pow'r are such, none can ev - er ask too much.
There your blood-bought right main-tain, and with - out a ri - val reign.
Let me live a life of faith; let me die thy peo - ple's death.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893
Public Domain

Call to Worship

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me
And hear my prayer. (*Psalms 4:1*)

O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear. (*Psalms 10:17*)

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
Incline your ear to me; hear my words. (*Psalms 17:6*)

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
Be gracious to me and answer me! (*Psalms 27:7*)

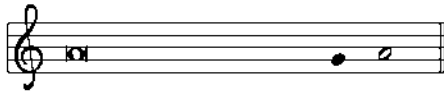
The Greeting

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.

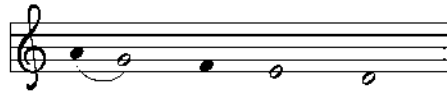
GOD IS LISTENING.

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.



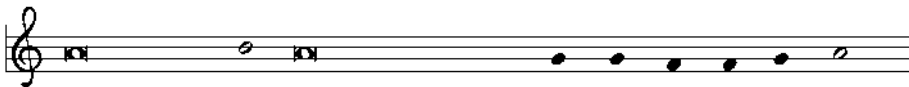
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.)*

Lord God, heavenly Father,
incline your ear to us.

**Hear us as we come before you in prayer and praise,
with thanksgiving and gratitude for your love and mercy.
We pray 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

Jeremiah 29:10-14

This passage from Jeremiah promises the restoration of the exiled people of Israel to their homeland. It also describes how the people should respond to God's promise.

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁰For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

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

Second Reading

1 John 5:13-15

The apostle John emphasizes the assurance of eternal life for those who believe in Jesus Christ, stating that believers can have confidence in their salvation by knowing that God hears their prayers.

A reading from First John.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.

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 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except

the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 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.

¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Listener

Hymn of the Day

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
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 the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer
for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A God, you call out to us with peace and promise, hope and healing
delivered through our friend, Jesus.

You invite us to respond with faith and trust.

Listen to our prayers for mercy and forgiveness,
and renew a right spirit within us.

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

P Lord, we pray for peace.

Deliver this world from injustice, protect the vulnerable
and give us good and faithful leaders.

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

A Comforting Lord, we pray for all who mourn the loss of loved ones
or are discouraged by loneliness.

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

P Listening God we pray for healing and hope
for all who are ill or recovering from sickness, especially...
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Heavenly Father, we pray for wisdom
that we might live good and godly lives,
with upright conduct and virtue.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Listening Lord, we pray with thanksgiving
for all the gifts that you give to your people.
We are forever grateful for your grace and mercy.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

Text: Public Domain; Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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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

The Father invites us to come to him.

The Son grants us access through the cross.

The Holy Spirit guides us in the way of holiness.

And, so, may the triune God — Father, + Son and Holy Spirit —
be our friend and companion now and for all eternity.

Amen. What a friend we have in Jesus!

Sending Song

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

#696



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

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

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD

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For God So Loved the World

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	W	S	G	D	K	I	Z	T	Q	M	P	J	F	E	R	V	B	X	A	C	U	L	N	H	Y

- 2-25-1-15-17-15-16 _____
- 2-1-16-23-5 _____
- 4-1-5 _____
- 18-15-23-7-15-17-15-3 _____
- 4-20-17-15 _____
- 23-7-14-15 _____
- 3-1-24 _____
- 15-9-15-16-24-20-23 _____
- 23-1-17-15-5 _____
- 12-15-16-7-3-25 _____
- 1-24-23-26 _____

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

God	gave	whoever	eternal
loved	only	believes	life
world	Son	perish	