



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 8, 2026 ✚ The Third Sunday in Lent

In this service, the place of the Passion is Gethsemane, where Jesus is betrayed and arrested in this garden under cover of darkness. We witness Jesus being taken away by soldiers, but we know that his journey toward the cross will take away our sins. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with Gethsemane 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.





Third Sunday In Lent

Confession & Forgiveness

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

In today's second lesson, St. Paul writes,
"Christ came proclaiming peace to those who are far off
and those who are near."

Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father,
who gives us the peace that passes all understanding.

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

Heavenly Father,
**you proclaim peace,
but we confess that it has not settled into our hearts.
We do not live in the light of Christ's peace.
We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.
We are more ready to worry than to trust.
More ready to fret than have faith.
More ready to blame than to believe.
Forgive our hard hearts.
And make us more alive to the depths of your love.
Show us what it cost to give up your Son.
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

Go to Dark Gethsemane

#347



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854
Music: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
Public Domain

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 the Garden of Gethsemane.

Where he is betrayed by Judas.

And arrested by the Jews.



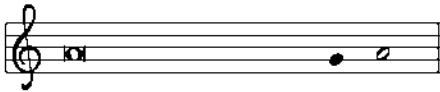
So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.
Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!

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 - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



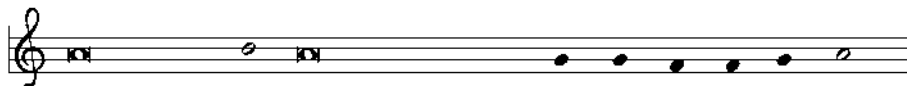
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:11-18

This passage focuses on Christ breaking down the "dividing wall of hostility" between Jews and Gentiles, transforming them from separated, alienated groups into one new humanity and one body. Paul urges believers to remember their former hopeless, outsider status, which was replaced by reconciliation through the blood of Christ.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" — a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands — ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, ¹⁵he has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

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



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.

Lenten Verse

ELW setting 4

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:47-56

Judas Iscariot leads an armed crowd, identifying Jesus with a kiss, while a disciple cuts off the high priest's servant's ear. Jesus submits to arrest to fulfill scripture, rebuking violence and showing total control.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." ⁴⁹At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁵⁰Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

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

Children's Time



Sermon

Gethsemane



- 1 Je - sus went out to a gar - den to a qui-et place to pray.
- 2 Je - sus spoke to stop the vi - o - lence: "Put your sword back in its place."
- 3 God of love, we pause and won - der: did that slave give qui - et praise?
- 4 God, the gos - pels bear a wit - ness: your Son's death was not the end.



In the night, a crowd came round him, led by Ju - das on their way.
Then he touched the slave and healed him in a mo-ment filled with grace.
Yet the stor - y march-es on - ward with the pain that it por-trays.
By your grace, you raised up Je - sus; sin and vio - lence did not win.



They seized Je - sus to ar - rest him; some-one near then drew a sword.
For as vio - lence leads to vio - lence caus - ing more di - stress and pain —
For the One who brought such heal-ing soon was brok-en, on a cross,
May we work to end all suff' - ing; lead us in Christ's peace-ful way.



Soon a slave was in-jured, suff'-ring there be - side our suff'-ring Lord.
So com - pas - sion in a - bun-dance is a wit - ness to God's reign.
To our sin - ful world re-veal - ing vio-lence has an aw - ful cost.
May his peace be - come an off'-ring that we share through-out each day.

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809; Public Domain

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Hymn of the Day Apostles' Creed

Jesus Went Out to a Garden

(Tune: #823)

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 O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church.
Give to pastors, vicars, deacons, bishops,
and all servants of your gospel
the endurance that produces character
and the hope that will never disappoint.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P When the waters run dry, sustain this earth.
Send water to places languishing with drought,
and bring relief to places damaged by floods.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts.
Quell hostilities between nations and peoples,
and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class,
nationality, moral conviction, religion,
and all else that divides or oppresses.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P When your people thirst, satisfy their needs.
Send water and food to all who need nourishment.

Grant welcome to all who are excluded.
Show your mercy to any in need *especially*...
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit.
Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make
and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

A O God, when death draws near,
we rejoice in the promise of life with you.
We remember all who have entered eternal rest,
and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory.
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



✠ 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



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

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

#755



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
3 When at last I near the shore, and the



life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful



roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I



com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
sov - reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888
Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822-1875
Public Domain

Dismissal

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

JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS

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

BETRAYAL	JUDAS	SATAN
COVENANT	KISS	SCRIPTURE
DISCIPLES	LORD'S SUPPER	SILVER
FAITHFUL	MOTIVE	SPEAR
GARDEN	NIGHT	TEMPLE
GOSPEL	PRAY	TRUTH
HEART	PROMISE	

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