



Altar Copy

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Zion Lutheran Church

230 Cemetery Road

P. O. Box 4

West Jefferson, Ohio 43162

614 879-8107

Jon Meister, Presider

www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD MOMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
C Amen.

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One,

C **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In

✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

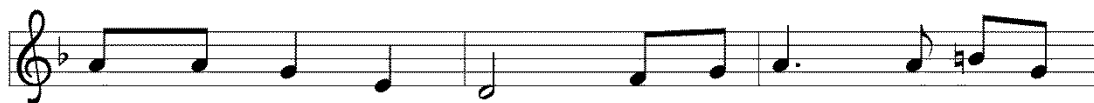
C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Last verse is on the next page

Lent 3
 Living Water of salvation,
 be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation,
 flow in us and make us whole.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: Marty Haugen
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LENTEN GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled World through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55: 1-9

Please be seated.

- L** A reading from Isaiah.

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 63: 1-8

Read responsively.

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1st Corinthians 10:1-13

L A reading from 1st Corinthians.

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were Baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play."

⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Please stand as you are able.***GOSPEL: Luke 13: 1-9****P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON***Please be seated.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: (ELW 773)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
 when my life is al - most gone,
 and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain
 Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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 to the dead. 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 INTERCESSION

A 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 We pray for the Church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict especially Michael, Nikki, and those we hold in our hearts. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

C **receive 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.

C **Amen.**

SHALOM

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

Continue to stand as you are able.

- P** Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
C **By day and by night he shines for all to see.**
- P** Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
- P** God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** Jesus is the light of the world.
C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
- P** Sing to God a new song!
C **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

PREFACE

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first staff contains the melody for the words "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,". The second staff contains the melody for the words "Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are". A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" above it in the second staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the World. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray the prayer you taught us:

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION HYMN



C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen

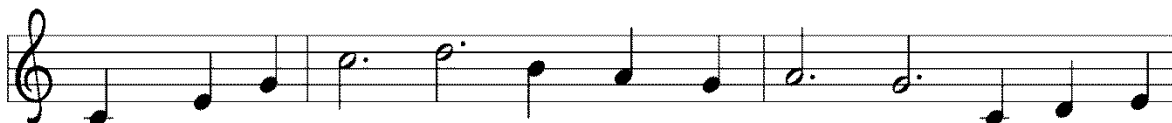
BLESSING

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.
C Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)

Sing only verses 1, 2, and 4.

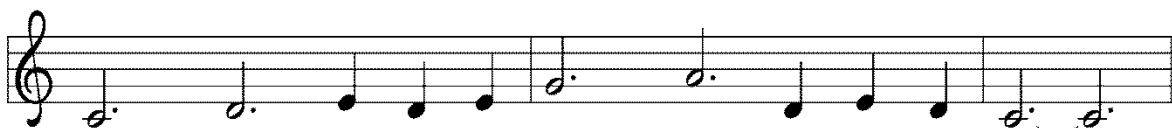
Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C Thanks be to God. *We go out--Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love. Amen!* (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Serving during worship this morning:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

Serving during worship next week:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

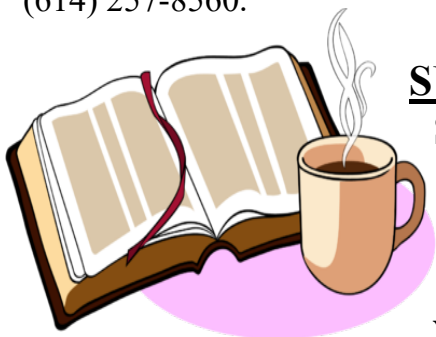
Food fund donations:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune.

CONTACT THE PASTOR

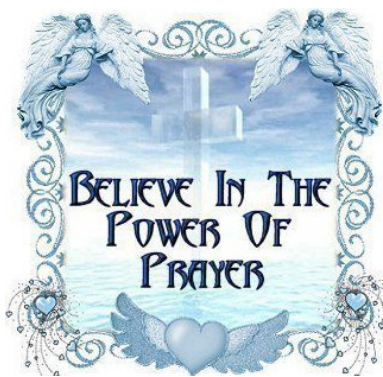
Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.



SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We have Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:40 each week except the first week of the month. Please come and join our lively discussion. Bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you if you wish. We are beginning at the beginning. We will be doing some hopping and skipping.

FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is *Stix-N-Stonez*. Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at “*christianameister.wixsite.com/blog*”. Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out both of these Facebook sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS



We are praying for Michael Koch, who has been fighting for a lifetime; Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim's daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers. We are also praising God for Braxton as he is recovering from his surgery.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick.

Maybe send a card or something to let them know they are being remembered.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid
Keep all of the Koch's in your prayer

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

MARCH Midweek services will be held around the area. I will get the rundown soon.

MARCH 16th is the day before St. Patrick's Day. Look for green punch or something after church.

MARCH 30th is a fifth Sunday which means we will be at First English. Plan ahead..

APRIL 13TH Passion Sunday Celebrate the triumphant entry into Jerusalem

APRIL 15TH **TAX DAY** Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's

APRIL 18th **GOOD FRIDAY**

APRIL 20TH Easter Sunday. He will be **RISEN** from the grave.

APRIL 22nd **Earth Day**

