

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Second Sunday of Lent March 16, 2025

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz
Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School
Wednesday night activities 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 7:00 Worship

**(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*P: Religious leaders brought to Jesus a woman caught in sin. They wanted to stone her to death, as the law allowed. Jesus invited anyone who was without sin to be the first to throw a stone at her. No one could, for we are all in bondage to sin. We now confess our sin as ones who like to throw stones ourselves:

You are invited to sit or kneel for confession

P: We throw stones,

C: When we are hurting, afraid, tired, or grieving.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of silencing

C: When we quiet the voices of those in pain and refuse to listen to others.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of blame and fear

C: When we assume the worst in others while expecting everyone else to offer us grace.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones of greed

C: when we hoard for ourselves, failing to trust God's abundance and to heed God's call to share.

P: And God weeps.

C: Forgive us, Lord. Turn our stonethrowing into stonecatching.

P: We throw stones.

C: And those stones pile up and roll in front of the tomb.

P: And God weeps.

C: And so do we. As we wait for Easter, we long to be stonecatchers in Jesus's name. Amen.

P: Jesus said to the woman, "I do not condemn you. Go on your way, and from now on do not sin again." In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven, go in peace to share this grace with others. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: WOV 687 *Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading* v. 1,3 & 5**
You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.

1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.
 5 Keep us fer - vent in our wit - ness; un - swayed by earth's al - lure.

It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.
 Ev - er grant us zeal - ous fit - ness, which you a - lone as - sure.

Refrain
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr.Howard S. Olson, B. 1922 Music: Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, B. 1924 Swahili and English texts and tune @ Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, 144. @EgilHovland NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA C M and refrain

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

***KYRIE**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **B** Lord, have mer - cy.
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord. **B** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 (*pg. 10 in pew Bible*)

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.’ But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

After the Reading: Reader: The Word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2,9-16 (*pg. 477 in your pew Bible, next*) (*read responsively*)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Congregation: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

L: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

C: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

L: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

C: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

L: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

C: 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, Lord, do I seek.

L: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

C: If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

L: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

C: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

L: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

C: Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1 (pg. 955 in pew Bible)

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *as the children come forward, please join in singing:*

Love, love, love, that's what it's all about. 'Cause God loves us we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother...everybody sing and SHOUT! 'Cause that's what it's all about. It's about love, love, love. It's about love, love, love.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL:** Luke 13:31-35 (pg. 849 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter. **Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 613 *Thy Holy Wings*

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress 76 76 D

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

(after hearing, “Lord in your mercy,” respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, “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.” respond: **Amen**)

***SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

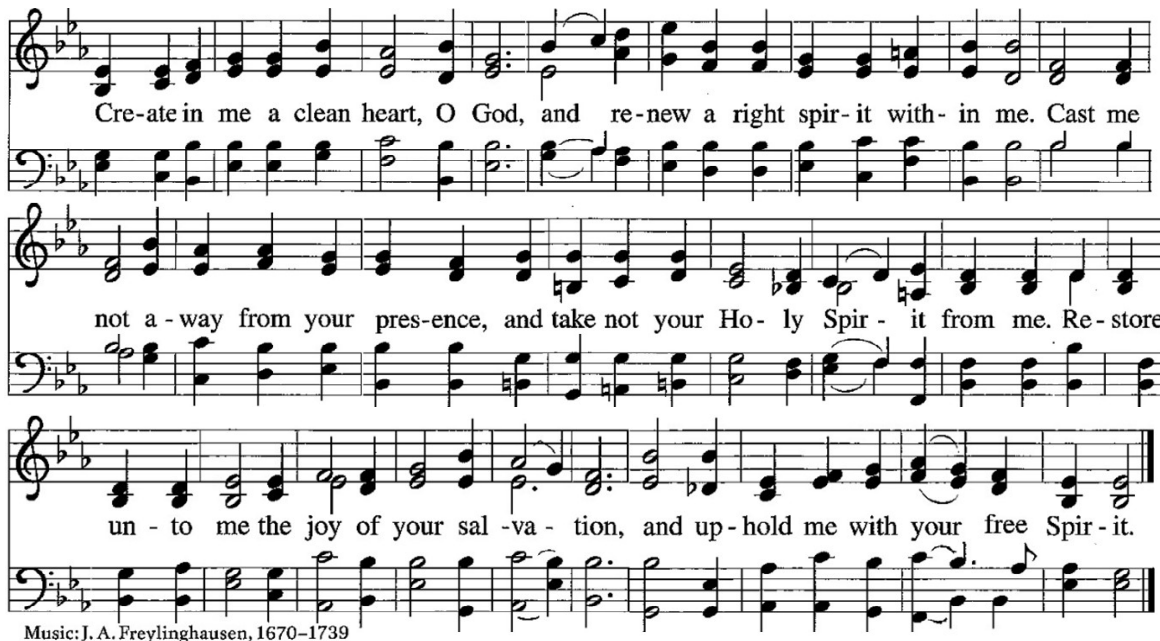
CHOIR ANTHEM

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, our regular electronic offering service, offering one-time and regular options.



***OFFERTORY HYMN**



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
 un - to me the joy of your sal -va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P: Blessed are you,

C: **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, being stonemasons for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION & SENDING**

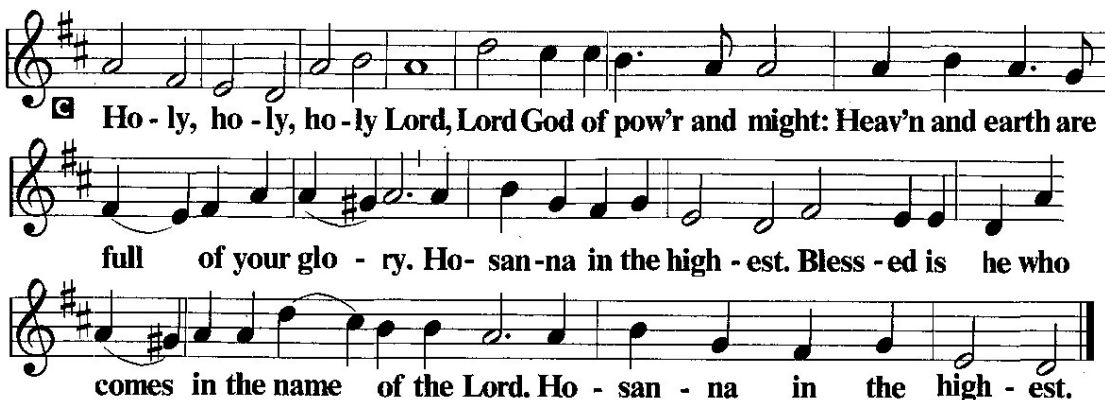
*P: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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 the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

P: 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:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: 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.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: 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.

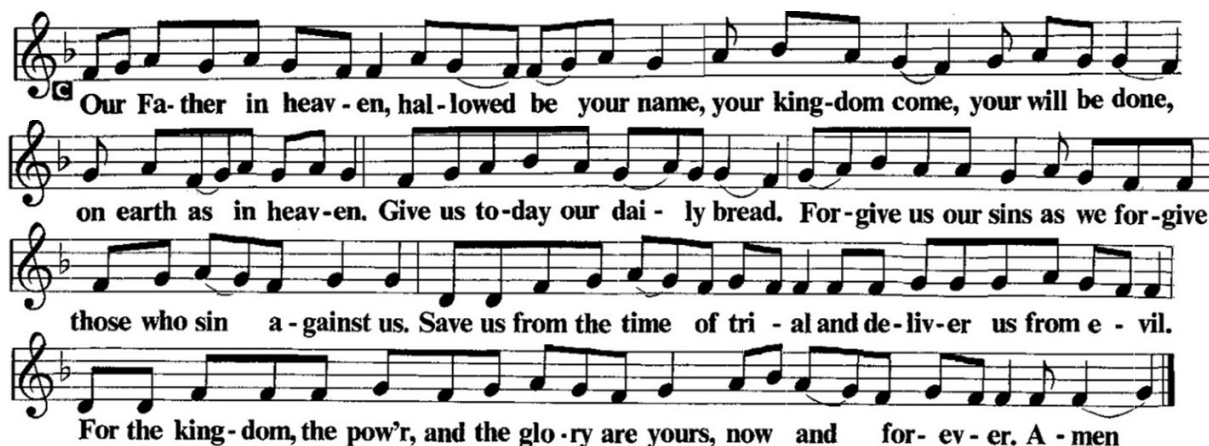
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray using the words Jesus taught us:

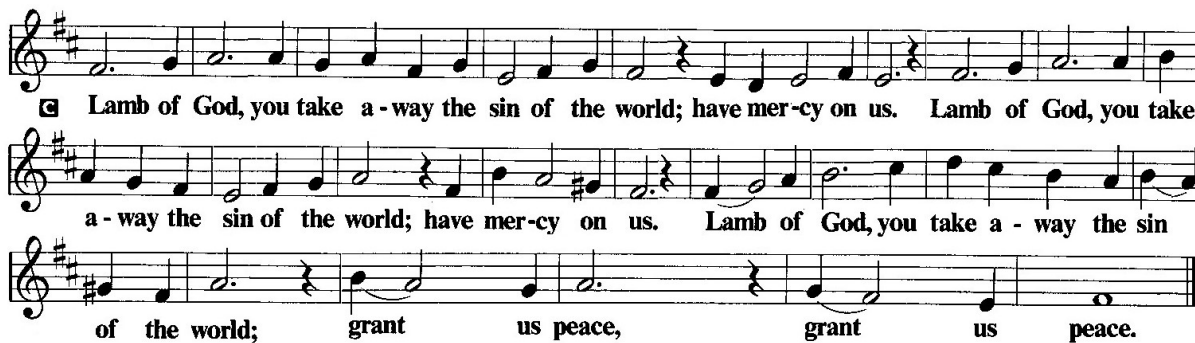


Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

***INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE**

P: All who are hungry, come, the feast of grace is spread.

LAMB OF GOD



□ 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.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

*Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ’s spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.*

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMNS: #481 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*
(green book) #203 *Now We Join in Celebration*
#205 *Now the Silence* (sing twice)

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** ELW 596 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn towards it, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus-tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-alone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain
 On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is
 sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 THE SOLID ROCK 88 88 888

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Turn from stonethrowing to stonecatching, in Jesus name.

C: Thanks be to God!

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Jamie, Emily, Joan Gerhart, Tina Rager, Maryellen, Bob, Jessica Harris, Anna Mae, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

Welcome, Girl Scout Troop 70112! We are glad to celebrate our first Scout Sunday in a number of years, as Girl Scout Troop 70112 recently began meeting at Zion's. We give thanks for their help this morning, and for *your support* which makes outreach like this possible. If you need some Girl Scout cookies, see them after worship!

This Week at Zions:

- Mar. 17, Monday @ 6:30 pm Church Council meeting
- Mar. 19, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
- Mar. 19, Wednesday **NO MEAL, REJOICING SPIRITS, OR WORSHIP**
- Mar. 19, Wednesday @ 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Next Week at Zions:

- Mar. 24, Monday @ 6:30 pm Mission Ministry Committee meeting
- Mar. 26, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
- Mar. 26, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship
- Mar. 26, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

No Lent Mid-Week Worship the 19th! Mid-Week Lenten Services will resume March 26, and April 2 and 9 at 7 PM. The Spiritual Practices of Stone-Catchers We invite you to a time of prayer, reflection, scripture, and song in the sanctuary. Together we will explore the spiritual practices that help us catch stones as they ground us in God's grace. We begin this Wednesday with the spiritual practice of listening.

This year's **Lent project**, Mission Ministry is collecting items for flood buckets for Lutheran Disaster Response. These buckets are distributed after floods or hurricanes to help people clean up their properties. The floods last fall wiped out the warehouse supply and we hope to supply ten buckets to help replenish the shelves for the next disaster. To help, please pick up a sticky note (or several!) from the display in the Gathering Area which names a specific item that is needed, purchase and return the item to Zion's by April 13. You can also make a financial contribution using the envelopes in the pews. We will use these funds, together with a Thrivent Action Team to purchase the more obscure items needed for the buckets. THANK YOU for your support!

Zion's will be decorating with Lilies for Easter. If you would like to sponsor a lily, Order forms are available on the window sill where you picked up your bulletin. Cost is \$8.50 per plant, plants may be claimed by sponsors after worship on Easter Sunday. April 6 is deadline to order. Forms are available where you pick up a bulletin.

It's time to register for Summer Camp! The Lutheran Camping Corporation, with summer camp locations near Lebanon and Gettysburg, offers something for people of all ages. Brochures are available in the window sills in the Gathering Area, or at www.LutheranCamping.org Zion's offers a \$290 scholarship for one week of camp, which can be combined with scholarships from the Camping Corporation. Our scholarship forms are available on our website, or on the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area. Register by April 5th for the greatest discounts!

Highlights from February's Council meeting are sent out via email after the meeting. Copies are then available in the Gathering Area.

The photo directory is now 'live' on the app or website! Instruction sheets for logging on can be found in the Gathering Area. If you're having trouble, please contact Debbie Long at 717 269-6050. We hope to have print copies next month.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Nancy Ludwig	John Noll
Prayer	Deb Reiner	Betty Kleinfelter
Children's sermon	Ed Ludwig	Tracy Hoy
Comm. Assts.	Linda Toth, Judy Merkel	Linda Wenrich, Cathy Houser
Greeter	Girl Scout Troop 70112	
Acolyte	Levi Bucks	Greyson McQuaide
Crucifer	Joanna Guldin-Noll	Madison Hess
Altar Guild	Merkel family	Strattan/Wenrich
Elevette	Kadance Kugler	Kadance Kugler
Ushers	Jack Beidler, Georgetta Wolfe	Georgetta Wolfe, Mike Long

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
SOUND: Houser family	PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz
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