

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Third Sunday of Lent March 23, 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

CONFESSIOIN 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:** ELW 618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
 bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me
 with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es
 feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932 CWMRHONDDA 87 87 877

***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,

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. **C** 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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 (pg. 598 in pew Bible)

Ho, 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. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, 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. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8 (pg. 458 in your pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: O God, you are my God, 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.

Congregation: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

C: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

L: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

C: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

L: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

C: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (pg. 931 in pew Bible)

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them,

and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do 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.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These 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. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No 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.

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**



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.

***GOSPEL:** Luke 13:1-9 (pg. 848 in pew Bible)

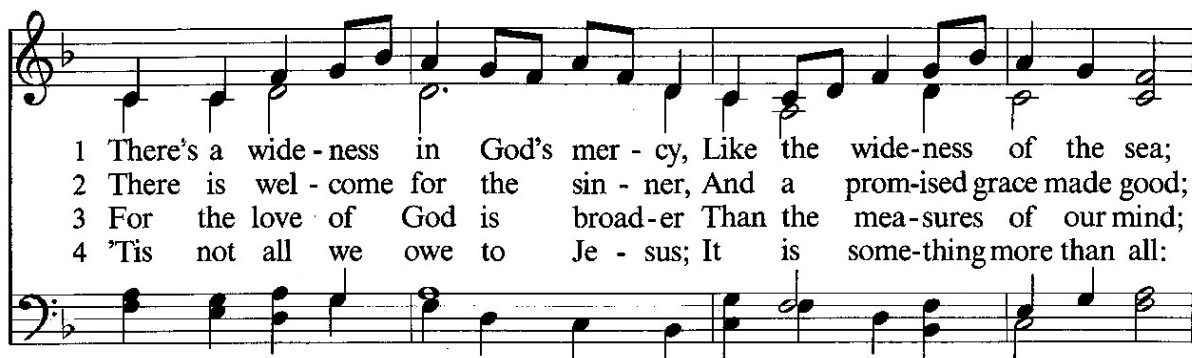
Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter. **Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.' Then 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. So 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?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY:** LBW 290 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, And a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je-sus; It is some-thing more than all:

There's a kind-ness in his jus-tice Which is more than lib-er-ty.
 There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in his blood.
 And the heart of the e-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 Great-er good be-cause of e-vil, Larg-er mer-cy through the fall.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e-nough for thou-sands Of new worlds as great as this;
 There is plen-ti-ful re-demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take him at his word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n.
 There is room for fresh cre-a-tions In that up-per home of bliss.
 There is joy for all the mem-bers In the sor-rows of the head.
 And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863 Tune: early American LORD, REVIVE US 878 7D

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

Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

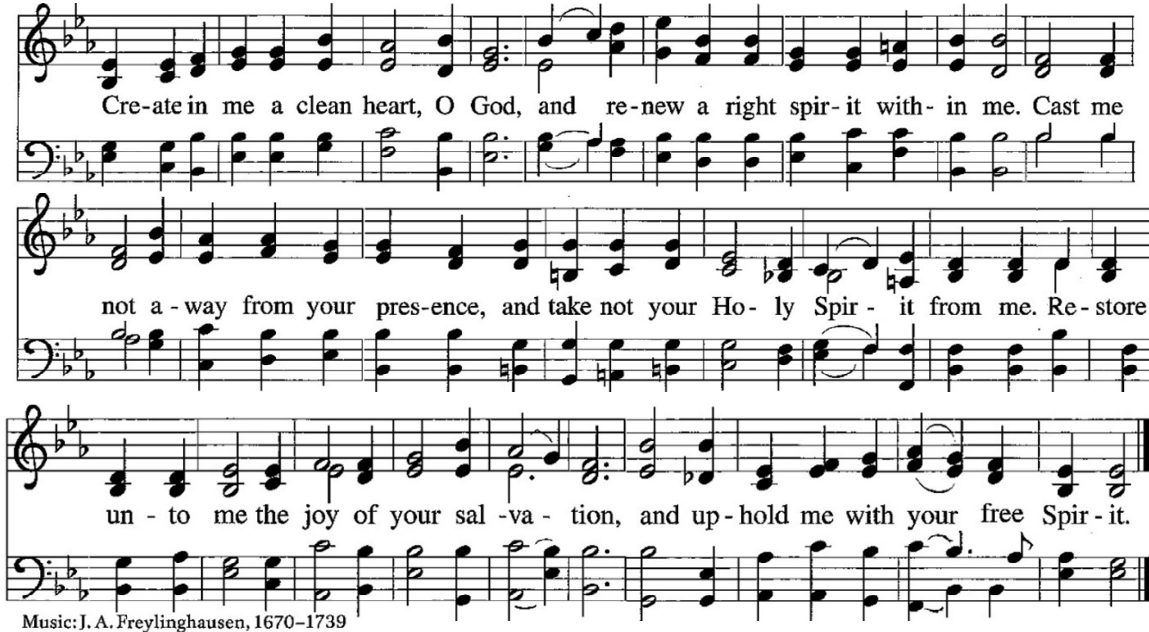
And may the prayer of my heart always be Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today.

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.

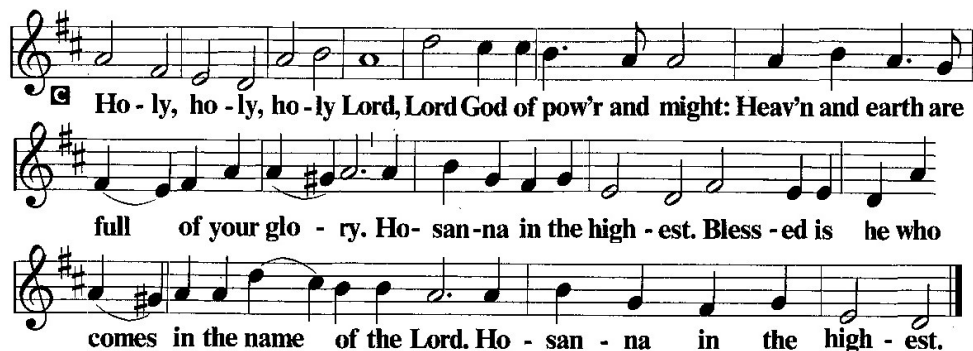
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to God.

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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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: #107 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
(green book) #507 *How Firm a Foundation*
#327 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

***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:** LBW 260 *On Our Way Rejoicing*

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 On our way re-joic-ing Glad-ly let us go.
2 Un-to God the Fa-ther Joy-ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con- quered; Van-quished is the foe.
Un-to God the Sav-ior Thank-ful hearts we bring;

Christ with-out, our safe-ty; Christ with-in, our joy;
Un-to God the Spir-it Bow we and a-dore,

Who, if we be faith-ful, Can our hope de-stroy?
On our way re-joic-ing Now and ev-er-more.

Refrain

On our way re - joic - ing; As we for - ward move,

Hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Tune: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879 HERMAS 65 65 65 D

***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 worshiping 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, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

This Week at Zions:

Mar. 24, Monday @ 6:30 pm Mission Ministry meeting

Mar. 26, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting, @ 5:30 community meal, @ 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Next Week at Zions:

Apr. 2, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting, @ 5:30 community meal, @ 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, @ 7:00 pm Lenten Worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Lent Mid-Week Worship: The Spiritual Practices of Stone-Catchers We invite you to a time of prayer, reflection, scripture, and song at 7 PM on Wednesdays March 26 and April 2 and 9 in the sanctuary. Together we will explore the spiritual practices that help us catch stones as the ground us in God's grace: this week's focus is gratitude.

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday worship begins at 10:30 AM in the Jonestown square and sanctuary (and livestreamed)

Wednesday, April 16: Rejoicing Spirit worship at 6:15 PM

Thursday, April 17: Maundy Thursday Dinner Church at 5:30 PM -- Sign ups appreciated online or on the bulletin board. Also looking for some people to bring soup.

Friday, April 18: Good Friday Tenebrae Worship at 7 PM (and livestreamed)

Saturday, April 19: Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM at the cemetery

Sunday, April 20: Easter Worship at 6:30 AM and 10:30 AM in sanctuary (10:30 also livestreamed)

Lent project: Mission Ministry is collecting items for flood buckets for Lutheran Disaster Response. Buckets are distributed after floods or hurricanes to help people clean up. 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!

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.

It's time to register for Summer Camp! The Lutheran Camping Corporation offers something for people of all ages. Brochures and Zion's Camp Scholarship forms are available in the Gathering Area.

Be sure to check out the doves from our 2024 Christmas Tree that are now hanging in the Gathering Area! As you may recall, our "Peace through Pieces" quilting group created these dove ornaments to adorn our tree, which will then be added to some of our 2025 Lutheran World Relief quilts to symbolically send a "piece" of our congregation as a symbol of "peace" to those who receive the quilts. We used three to make a wall hanging to forever remember this initiative and our connection with neighbors all around the world.

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	John Noll	Stephanie Livingston
Prayer	Betty Kleinfelter	Ann Kulp
Children's sermon	Tracy Hoy	Noel Strattan
Comm. Assts.	Linda Wenrich, Cathy Houser	Kelly Rittle, Linda Wenrich
Greeter		Cathy Houser
Acolyte	Greyson McQuaide	Izaak McQuaide
Crucifer	Madison Hess	Xander McQuaide
Altar Guild	Strattan/Wenrich	Bucks family
Elevette	Kadance Kugler	Tom Frey
Ushers	Georgetta Wolfe Mike Long	Georgetta Wolfe Mike Long

<p>MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin SOUND: Houser family ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848 zions@comcast.net</p>	<p>VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652 pastorckurtz@gmail.com</p>
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