

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Fifth Sunday of Lent April 6, 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:** LBW 104 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

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

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, By the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, From the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872 Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867 RATHBUN 87 87

***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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
C 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. **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: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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: Isaiah 43:16-21 (pg. 586 in pew Bible)

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

PSALM: Psalm 126 (pg. 499 in your pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Congregation: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

L: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

C: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

C: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14 (pg. 954 in pew Bible)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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: John 12:1-8 (pg. 874 in pew Bible)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 12th Chapter. **Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 704 *When Pain of the World Surrounds Us*

1 When pain of the world sur - rounds us with dark - ness and de -
 2 We see with . . fear and trem - bling our ach - ing world in
 3 The church is a ho - ly ves - sel the liv - ing wa - ters
 4 We praise you . . for our jour - ney and your a - bun - dant

spair, when search - ing just con - founds us with
 need, con - fess - ing to each oth - er our
 fill to nour - ish all the peo - ple, God's
 grace, your sav - ing word that guid - ed a

false hopes ev - 'ry - where, when lives are starved for mean - ing and
 waste - ful - ness and greed. May we with stead - fast car - ing the
 pur - pose to ful - fill. May we with hum - ble cour - age be
 strug - gling hu - man race. O God, with all cre - a - tion, your

des - ti - ny is bare, we are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 hun - gry chil - dren feed. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 o - pen to God's will. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and
 fu - ture we em - brace. We are called to fol - low Je - sus and

let God's heal - ing flow through us.
 let God's jus - tice flow through us.
 let God's Spir - it flow through us.
 let God's chang - es flow through us.

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 stonecatchers 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**

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a square symbol in a box, indicating a common time signature. The lyrics are: "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 music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

*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 WITH RIGHT OF HEALING**

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 desire anointing with oil are invited to stay at the communion rail.

*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: #737 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
 (blue book) #738 *Healer of Our Every Ill*
 #660 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND SENDING OF COMMUNION**

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.

P: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

C: We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

***BENEDICTION**

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

***SENDING HYMN: WOV 746 Day by Day**

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 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens
to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter
mor - tal meas - ure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,
lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1932-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b 1936 Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882 %\$@1992 Augsburg Fortress

***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: Gary, Wendy, Halley, Jeremy and family, Randy & Diane, Pat Keefer, Kay, Jamie, Emily, Joan Gerhart, Tina Rager, Maryellen, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

This Week at Zions:

Apr. 9, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

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

Next Week (Holy Week) at Zions:

Apr. 13, Sunday @ 9:15 Mens & Women's Bible study, also, **Lenten bucket items due!**

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

Apr. 15, Tuesday @ 10:00 am Preschool Event

Apr. 16, Wednesday @ 10:00 am Preschool Event

Apr. 16, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

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

Apr. 18, Friday @ 7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship (and livestreamed)

Apr. 19, Saturday @ 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt in the cemetery

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

Final 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 April 9 in the sanctuary.

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. 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!

Dudes and Donuts and Women of the Word, Mens' and Womens' Bible studies will meet next Sunday, April 13!

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

Know someone who could use a prayer shawl or lap blanket? Thanks to the generosity of our knitters, we have some to share! See Jean Fowler if you'd like to select a prayer shawl, lap blanket, or baby blanket to share with a friend. One small way we can share God's love and hope with others.

Youth Service Camp coming to Zion's this summer! Youth who have completed 6th through 12th grade are invited to participate in a week of service, learning (and fun) June 16 to 20, based at Zion's. We'll gather each morning to serve in our congregation and community, share Bible study over lunch, and then head out for an activity in the afternoon. At the end of the week, participants will receive money to use for a service project or to contribute to a non-profit of their choice (with thanks to the Touching Tomorrow Endowment!) More information and registration links on our website.

Help needed for Youth Service Camp! Of course, to make this great week of service learning possible, we need adult help! If you're able to provide a meal for our time together, donate a Thrivent Action Team card, help transport youth whose parents are working, or provide transportation for one of our afternoon activities *please let Pastor Caitlin know*. Thank you!

It's time to register for Summer Camp! 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!

Serving at Zion's	Today	Next Sunday
Lector	Terry Ludwig	Kris Hoffer
Prayer	Seth Kurtz	Stephanie Livingston
Children's sermon	Joanna Guldin-Noll	Terry Ludwig
Comm. Assts.	Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Deb Long, Kelly Rittle
Greeter	Ed Ludwig	Cathy Houser, Stephanie Livingston
Acolyte	Gracie Bucks	Derek Wolfe. Michael Wolfe
Crucifer	Rob McQuaide	MacKenzie Hess
Altar Guild	Strattan/Wenrich	Merkel family
Elevette	Steve Bucks	Kadance Kugler
Ushers	Luke Hiester, Linda Toth	Luke Hiester, Linda Toth

<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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