

Sunday Worship
February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Arr. Johnson

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS James 5:16; 1John 1:8-9

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may**

live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #319

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY 2 Corinthians 13:13

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.**

P: Let us pray . . .

C: **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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**

KYRIE

**Red Hymnal
pg.147**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



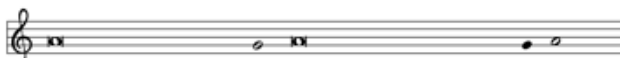
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

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

CHANCEL CHOIR Director: Bill Jones *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*
 Composer: Welsh Tune Text: Sylvia Dunstan

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

R: ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” ^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 32

R: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C: ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

R: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

C: ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

R: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C: ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

R: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C: ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

R: ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

C: ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

R: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

R: ¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

R: The Word of the Lord
C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal 151

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.

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 4:1-11**
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON Pastor Jaren Summers

HYMN Red Hymnal #504

A Mighty Fortress

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 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.

PRAYERS (*Response after each petition*) 1 Timothy 2:1-2

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG Hymn #186

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

COMMUNION PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you...**Red Hymnal pg. 152**
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...(The pastor continues with the proper preface for the day)...And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you...
...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....
...now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

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 *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

Red Hymnal pg. 154



HYMN Purple hymnal #1017

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

P: Who are we at Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **We are disciples Rooted in Christ and Growing in Faith**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress

Arr. Cherwien

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Carla & Chris Frame in memory of Maxine Suerdieck*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted
using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Jaren Summers
Communion Assist	Kervyn Mach
Reader	Nate Ewing
Greeters	Dale & Debbie Rudisill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND BACK BAY MISSION PLANNING MEETING - TODAY, February 22 after Service in the Adult Sunday School Room. The mission group from Indiana will be attending our church service and we will all meet after church. It will be a great time for both groups to meet and to discuss food preparations and other details that require group discussion.

KENNEDY HALL Zion will prepare and serve lunch at Kennedy Hall in Troy on **Saturday March 7.** Kennedy Hall is a community space for the residents of Terrace Ridge apartments. Terrace Ridge is a senior housing community for those 62+ or disabled individuals receiving SSI. We need 3 Zion members to prepare the meal at the church at 9:00 am on Saturday March 7th. We'll transport the food beginning at 11:00 and serve from 12:00-1:00. Also needed will be donations of cookies and/or brownies. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hallway. Questions? Contact Linda Holt.

NEW - MOMENT FOR FELLOWSHIP Starting **Sunday, March 1,** we invite you to stay after worship for coffee, juice, and donuts in the lobby. We are looking for **two volunteers** each week to help with simple setup, brewing coffee, and cleanup. If you can help serve, a signup sheet is located in the fellowship hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

FABRIC NEEDED FOR THE QUILTERS These ladies are so productive that they are running out of fabric. If you have any COTTON fabric that you no longer want/need, please donate it.

ORDER YOUR ZION T-SHIRT

We have Zion T-Shirts available for the congregation to order! Shirts are a great way to show your love of Zion within the community. They are also a helpful tool to be recognized easily at events within the community and hosted at Zion. Please see the posters located around the building to view your color options (Grey, Purple, Blue, or Red). Shirts are available in both Adult and Youth sizes. There is a poster showing the colors and size charts for adults and youth in the fellowship hall and a smaller chart beside the order forms on the table in the narthex. Please return your order form with cash or check to the envelope in the workroom by **March 8th!**

THRIVENT GRANTS NEEDED FOR THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST/EGG HUNT.

If you have grants available, please consider submitting one for this Easter festivity. See Jessica Dorn with questions.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION OPEN HOUSE - Sunday, March 8th

Pastor Jaren and the Communications/Welcoming Committee invite you to stay after worship if you want to learn about different ways to participate in worship. We will be covering different opportunities like serving as greeters, ushers, communion assistants, and readers. There will also be an opportunity to learn about choir. We invite you to stay after worship if you have any questions or are simply curious about participating in worship.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday, February 22	11:00 am	Back Bay Mission Meeting
		Storypoint Outreach
Monday, February 23	10:30 am	Mission Quilts
	3:30 pm	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Tuesday, February 24	10:00 am	Mission Quilts
	8:00 pm	AA
Wednesday, February 25	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Worship & Music Meeting
	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 26	7:00 pm	Compassionate Friends



Lent Devotional Service
Wednesday, March 4 - 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday
Saturday, March 28 - 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 29 - 10:00 am
Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt - Following Service

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday
Friday, April 3 - 7:00 pm

Jaren Summers, *Pastor*; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn, *Christian Education Director*;
Annette Calicoat, *Office Admin*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*;
Tina Putnam, *Custodian*