

Sunday Worship
March 1, 2026
First Sunday in Lent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third & Main Street, Tipp City, Ohio 45371
Church Office: 14 West Walnut Street

(937) 667-3110

Website: www.ziontippcity.org
E-mail: office@ziontippcity.org

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

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today’s gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God’s love for all the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love is This

Arr. Rouse

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.
Most merciful God

C: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live forever in our hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN Red hymnal #333

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

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.**

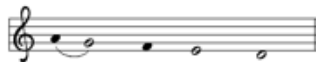
P: Let us pray . . .

C: **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.



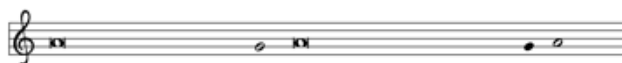
Lord, have mer - cy.



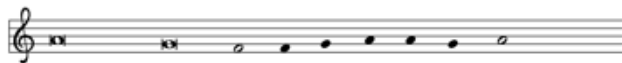
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



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: Susie Gray
 Composer: Anna Laura Page

Come to the Water

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

R: ¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

R: ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

C: ²My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

R: ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C: ⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

R: ⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

C: ⁶the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

R: ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

C: ⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

R: ¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 **John 3:1-17**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Nate Ewing

HYMN Red Hymnal #856

How Great Thou Art

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 . . .**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The congregation is invited to remain standing, turn to those near them and offer a handshake, wave, or smile and share the words: "The peace of Christ be with you."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD Red Hymnal pg. 220

P: Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face to shine down upon you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #803

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Arr. Behnke

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Phil Elliot in memory of Boots.*

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