

Sunday Worship
March 15, 2026
Fourth 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

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

There is a Balm in Gilead

Arr. Page

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 #614

There is a Balm in Gilead

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: **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

KYRIE

Red Hymnal pg.147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



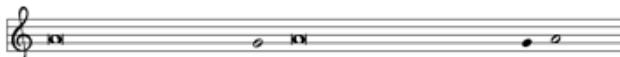
Lord, have mer - cy.



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: Hal Hopson

Be Still My Soul

THE WORD

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

R: ¹ The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 23

R: ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: ² **He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

R: ³ He restores my soul, and He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

C: ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

R: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

R: ⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal 151



HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **John 9:1-41**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it

again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Jaren Summers

HYMN Red Hymnal #779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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.**

CHILDRENS SERMON

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

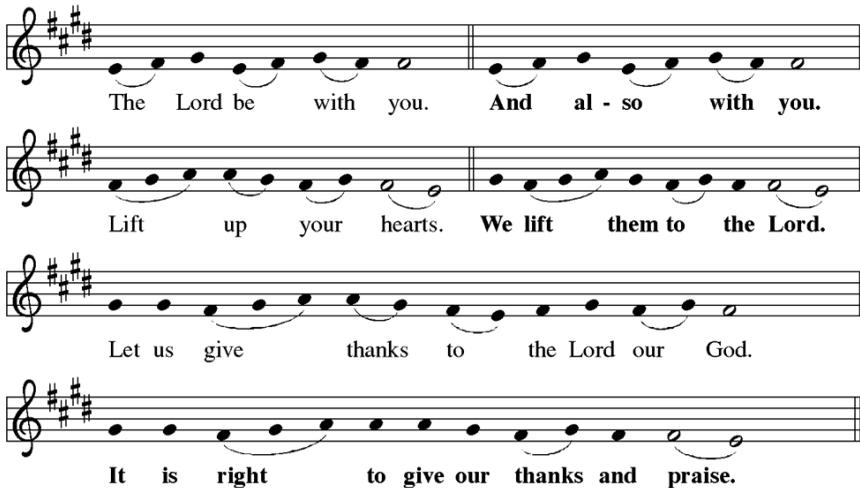
OFFERTORY SONG Hymn #186

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.

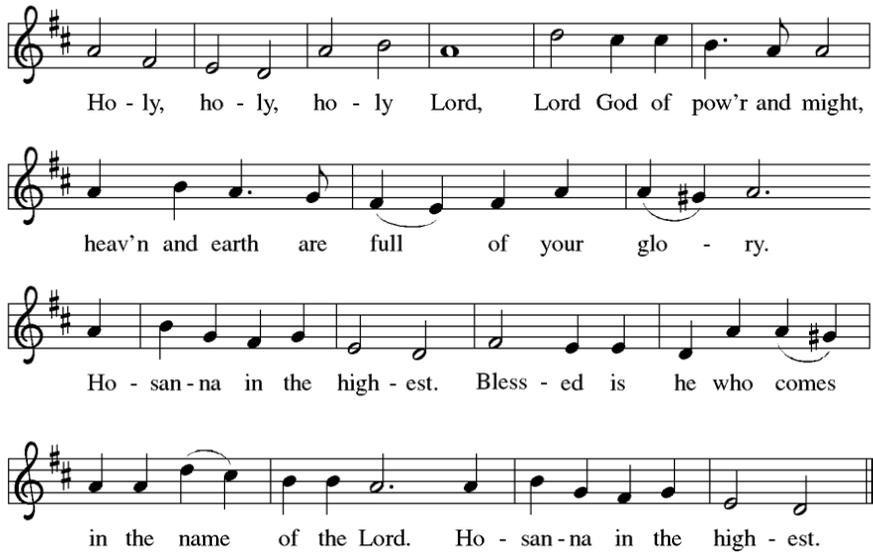
COMMUNION PREFACE



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
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...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.



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.

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.

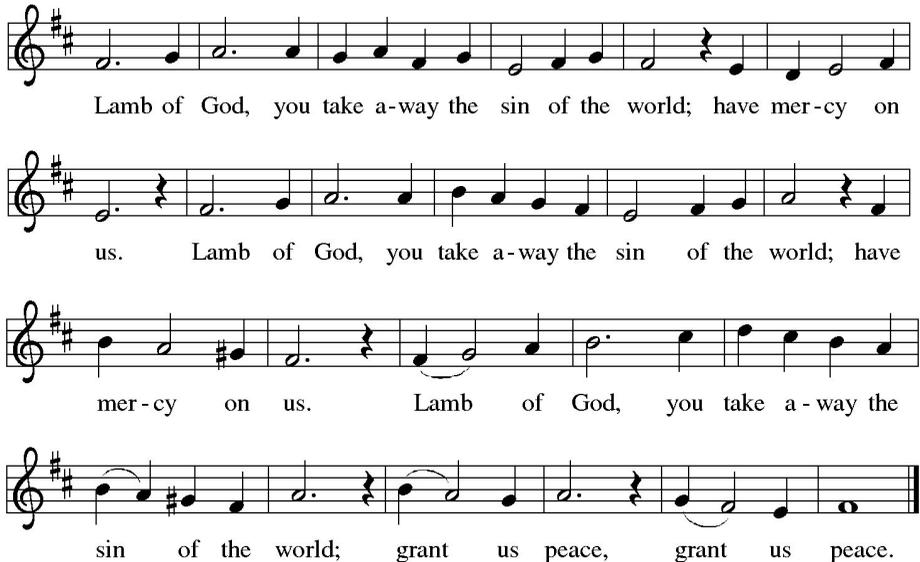
C: **Amen.**

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**



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.

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS & BABY BLANKETS

BLESSING Numbers 6:23-26

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

C: Amen.

HYMN Red hymnal #333

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

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. Believe in the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Arr. Carter

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Ken & Judy Bailey in celebration of their granddaughter Ash's birthday.*

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	Linda Holt
Reader	Linda Holt
Greeter	Beth Ferryman
Ushers	Jill & John Greer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we are **blessing shawls and baby blankets** for our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Baby blankets are given to new babies; grandparents may request a blanket for a new grandchild. Shawls are given to people who have a serious illness, who are having surgery, who have lost a loved one, or who are going through a difficult time. The shawls are meant to bring comfort and to let the individual know that they are loved. Recipients do not need to be a member of Zion. If you know someone who needs a warm embrace from our Heavenly Father, please contact Debbie Rudisill.

BUNCO RETURNS Saturday, March 21st at 6:00 pm. Pizza will be served and a love offering taken to cover the cost. Please bring your own beverages and a side dish or snack to share. If you don't know how to play, no worries, it's easy and we will teach you. Join the fun!

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH & EGG HUNT is March 29th. Please sign up in the fellowship hallway if you plan to attend. Helpers are also needed and you can sign up in the same place.

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.

A MOMENT FOR FELLOWSHIP We invite you to stay after worship for coffee, juice, and donuts in the narthex. 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.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY The VA is in dire need of walker bags. Volunteers to sew an easy pattern are needed. Walker bag patterns can be obtained from Maggie Powder or Kathy Groth.

SUNDAY SERVICE HELPERS NEEDED There are a lot of openings for people to assist with services in April. Please sign up in the fellowship hallway.

THRIVENT GRANTS NEEDED If you are a current Thrivent member, the mission team is seeking Thrivent grants to support the upcoming Back Bay Mission Trip, scheduled for May 10–15. We need 2 grants for Micah Day Center Lunches for Wednesday May 13 and Friday May 15. Additional grants can also be requested for housing rehab materials, tents, clothing for those in need, cleaning supplies, foot panty or hygiene kits. The grants can be requested online. If you are willing to help by requesting a grant please see Raenell or Sean Poynter. You may call or text at 937-657-2301 or email at raenellpoynter@yahoo.com.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Monday, March 16	10:30 am 3:30 pm	Mission Quilts TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Tuesday, March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day 10:00 am 5:30 pm 8:00 pm	Mission Quilts Bible & Brew at Chaffee's AA
Wednesday, March 18	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, March 21	6:00 pm	Bunco

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 28 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 29 - 10:00 am

Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt - Following Service

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*