

Sunday Worship
March 22, 2026
Fifth 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

In today’s gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God’s unfailing promise in our baptism.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Will You Come and Follow Me?

Arr. Maxwell

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 #712

Lord Whose Love in Humble Service

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: **Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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.



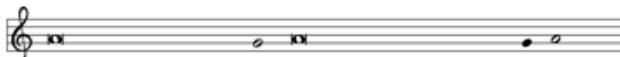
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



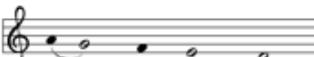
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*
 Composer: Thomas Williams Text: Bernhardt Ingermann

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

R: ¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

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

PSALM: Psalm 130

R: ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: ² **O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

R: ³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

C: ⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

R: ⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

C: ⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

R: ⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

C: ⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

R: ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 11:1-45**

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

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep

there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

SERMON Deacon Nick Bates

HYMN Red Hymnal #333

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

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 to the Lord**

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... (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.

Red Hymnal Pg. 144

C: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest**

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 Numbers 6:23-26

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

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #328

Restore in Us, O God

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

What Wondrous Love is This?

Arr. Thomas

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Kendra & Jaren Summers in celebration of their 7th anniversary.*

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

In Helpful Service

Deacon	Nick Bates
Communion Assist	Bob Keppel
Reader	Joyce Luther
Usher	Carol Friss

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 sign-up sheet is located in the fellowship hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH & EGG HUNT is next Sunday, 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.

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 23	10:30 am 3:30 pm	Mission Quilts TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Tuesday, March 24	10:00 am 8:00 pm	Mission Quilts AA
Wednesday, March 25	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Women's Fellowship Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 26	7:00 pm	Compassionate Friends
Sunday, March 29	After Service Storypoint Outreach	Brunch & Egg Hunt

HOLY WEEK



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 28th - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29th - 10:00 a.m.

Brunch & Egg Hunt after service

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2nd – 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 3rd – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at Global Methodist Church 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 4th - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5th - 10:00 a.m.

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*