

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & COMMUNION
February 26, 2023



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 this is your first visit, or if 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 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Arr. Anna Laura Page

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forth days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #320

The Glory of These Forty Days

KYRIE Red hymnal page 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray for the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE Red hymnal page 139

Glory to God

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling 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.

THE WORD

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

R: ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but 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'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but 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.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So 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. ⁷Then 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.**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

R: ¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But 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 free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life

through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore 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. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel is **Matthew 4: 1-11**

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

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Dale Schaefer

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 OF THE CHURCH (*Response after each petition*)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG Red hymnal #186 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.)*

BLESSING

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #503

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is: “Serving Christ through serving others.”**

P: Go in peace. Serve in Love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

Arr. Hobby

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Greeters	Randy & Debbie Turner
Acolyte	Owen Vonderheide
Reader	Katie Kessler
Communion Asst.	Brad Kennedy
Usher	Bob & Deb Keppel

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

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

Sunday School Attendance

Kids: 5 Youth: 5

Adults: 13

Ash Wednesday Attendance: 56

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

Would you like to help fight cancer? Our Relay For Life team, Holy Walkamolies For the Cure, will have our first meeting of the year will be **this afternoon at 3 pm in the adult Sunday school room**. This year's event is scheduled for June 17 at the Miami County Fairgrounds. We will need people who can take turns walking at the event, but there is a variety of other ways to help too. New members are always welcome.

MARCH TIDINGS

Many of the newsletters are not being picked up in the individual boxes and are thrown away. We are going to try something new and make the Tidings available in the back of the church on the table. Please feel free to take a copy so you can stay up to date on the church happenings.

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR FEBRUARY / Souper Bowl of Caring

This is the last week money will be collected for the St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen in Troy. Please consider putting your spare change or a few bills, or a check made payable to **Women of Zion** in the bowl. Women of Zion will match funds Donated up to \$300.00.

REMINDERS FOR NEXT SATURDAY & SUNDAY—

- ◆ **Food Pantry Collection** is the first Sunday of every month. Donations of non-perishable food items can be placed in the green barrel in the Walnut Street entrance. Needy Baskets picks up the items and distributes the food to those in need in our community.
- ◆ **Thank Offering** will be collected in the back of the church by the Women of Zion. Money will be used to support the Good Samaritan Fund here at Zion which assists those in our community who need help paying rent, utilities, medical, gas etc.

F.Y.I.

A Lenten mid-week service will be held on **Wednesday, March 8th at 6:00 PM** / a light snack will be available.

MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center has existed as a safe haven for youth for more than 140 years in Richmond, Indiana. Please take a green shamrock from the display in our church narthex. Certain items are needed to help the kids at Wernle. **Deadline: March 26, 2023**

Thank you for your generosity. Any questions contact Kathy Groth at 1(937) 216-2071.

NEW ADDRESS: Jan Aller

1800 Pebblestone Drive

Findlay, OH 45840

New e-mail address: janetaller1951@gmail.com

COMING UP IN MARCH

Wednesday, March 1

Saturday, March 4

Sunday, March 5

5:00 PM

Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday School / Adults & Kids

Confirmation / Youth

10:00 AM

Worship / Communion

Monday, March 6

11:00 AM

Quilting

6:00 PM

Property Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, March 7

10:00 AM

Quilting

8:00 PM

AA meets in the basement

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 PM

Mid Week Lenten Service

7:00 PM

Choir Practice

Saturday, March 11

5:00 PM

Worship / Dinner at Dos Lunas

Daylight Savings Time – Set clocks ahead 1 hour

Sunday, March 12

9:00 AM

Sunday School

Confirmation

10:00 AM

Worship / Communion

Staff

Dale Schaefer, Interim Pastor; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;

Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn *Christian Education Director*

Linda Short, *Office Manager*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*; Tina Putnam, *Sexton*