

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & COMMUNION
March 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—*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 *There is a Balm in Gilead* 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 #886

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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: Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy and peace 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.

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, prophecy, 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 prophecy, 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.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

R: ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead

because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ 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

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 **John11: 1-45**

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

P: Gospel to be read by the Pastor

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Dale Schaefer

HYMN Purple hymnal #927

Christ is the Life

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 #328

Restore in Us, O 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

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

Arr. Nelson

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer	
Greeter	Billie Fischer	
Acolyte	Owen Vonderheide	
Reader	Chuck Drake	
Communion	Joyce Luther	Assistant
Usher	Garry Yunker	

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

The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God by Kervyn & Janice Mach in celebration of their birthdays.

Total Attendance 3/18 & 3/19/2023: 99 Sunday School Attendance:

Unified Giving: \$1,681.00

Adults: 17 Youth: 6

Building Fund: \$ 100.00

Children: 10

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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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** to bring in purchased items. Thank you for your generosity. Any questions contact Kathy Groth at 1(937) 216-2071.

PRAYER VIGIL

There will be a prayer vigil in the sanctuary on **Good Friday April 7** from 12:00-7:00 (the time of service). A sign-up sheet will be in the area behind the sanctuary. You may sign up for one or more time slots and more than one person may sign up each slot. Please use the time for silent prayer/meditation.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday – April 1/2nd

Maundy Thursday – April 6 – 7pm

Good Friday – April 7 – 7pm

Saturday, April 8—9am Easter Breakfast & 10am Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Vigil –Sat., April 8 – 5pm **Easter Sunday** –April 9 – 8am & 10am

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Monday, March 27	11:00 AM	Quilting
Tuesday, March 28	10:00 AM	Quilting
	8:00 PM	AA meets in the basement
Saturday, April 1	5:00 PM	Worship
Sunday, April 2	9:00 AM	Sunday School & Confirmation
	10:00 AM	Worship & Communion

11th ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING /Northwest Conference of the Southeran Ohio Synod—Saturday, April 15, 2023

“Easter’s Over—Now What”?

Tomb Dweller or Resurrected Christian?

John 3:16, Acts 1:3-4m Psalm 51

Where: St. John’s Lutheran Church, 248 Wood St., Piqua, Ohio
Hospitality Brunch, Exhibits & Registration from 8:30-10:00 AM, Open assembly in sanctuary 10:00 AM with presentation at 10:30 AM. A brief business Meeting will follow. Gathering closes at approximately Noon.