



Second Sunday in Lent, March. 5, 2023, at 10 a.m.
Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome friends and guests: 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.

Worship Service: In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, fill out a yellow guest card and put it in the offering so we can welcome you. Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for snacks and conversation.

Holy Communion: The Sacrament is offered to all worshipping with us. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing instead.

Lenten Soup Suppers: At 6 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent, join us in the Fellowship Hall for a soup supper and brief devotion.

Other Information: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary, our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Vicar Lisa Rygiel at the church (719-846-7785) or contact her via email: zionsluth@gmail.com or Ischatzr@gmail.com. Further information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Gathering of Prayers and Call to Worship

Threshold Song: *Show Us How to Love*

Hearts o - pen, mind's_ a - wake, save us now for heav-en's
sake, leave us not a - lone in ha-tred's wake. Show us how_____ to love,
show us how_____ to love, show us how, show us how___ to love..
Eyes o - pen, . shocked_ a - wake, much to learn from
our mis - stakes, draw us clo - ser in our heart - ache. Show us how_____ to
love, show us how_____ to love, show us how, show us how___ to
love._____

Oftentimes we believe that we must “deserve” the love we receive. We work, work, work to get approval and to feel like our life is justified — pulling our own weight, thinking that whatever life we create and love we get is only what we ourselves can conjure up. But the scriptures today offer the image of God as our “keeper” — always helping, always present. Nicodemus has followed all the rules and done everything HE can do, and yet he is still looking for love — for tangible connection with God. Jesus says that he must be born “of the Spirit.” It’s not all up to simply “doing the right thing!” It is about allowing the Spirit to help birth love in our lives.

Threshold Song: *Show Us How to Love* (printed on page 2)

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: #321 *Eternal Lord of Love...*



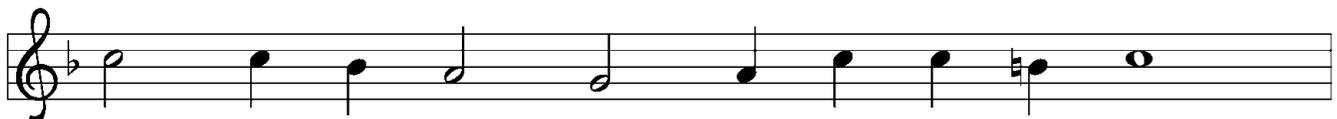
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Confession & Forgiveness

Let us join together in opening our hearts to the love of God. Before we even utter a word, we can be assured God will offer us grace and a way forward.

For this reason, we can be honest with what pains us most about our own thoughts and actions.

We yearn for lives that matter, we desire relationships that thrive, we want less regret.

At times we fail to see that you have already given us what really matters: your love and acceptance. You provide opportunities all around us to make a difference in the lives of others.

You give us a fresh start each day, inviting us to do better. In this silence, we bring to you our pleas for openness to a different way of living.

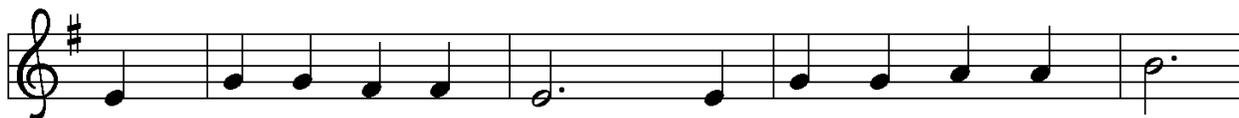
Brief Silence

My friends, be assured by the Psalmist who says, "The Lord will keep your life...your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."

Let us respond together:

We open our hearts, our minds, our souls, our vision to the ways of love created by God, embodied in Jesus, and already moving in us by the Spirit. We are forgiven, loved, and freed! Amen!

Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

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.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Song of Preparation for the Word: *Love Us in Fullness*
(next page)



1 Love us in - to full - - ness,
2 Love us in - to full - - ness,
3 Love us in - to full - - ness



touch us with your grace; Je - sus, in your
hold us in your care, cheer us with your
and we will be strong; Je - sus, walk be -



mer - cy, draw us to your face.
pre - sence here and ev - ery - where.
side us, fill our hearts with song.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from Genesis.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121

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

²**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

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

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

⁵the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

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

⁷The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from Romans.

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 without works 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.

¹⁴If 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 violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John. **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 apart from the presence of God."

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 a 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? ¹³No 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. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon -- Vicar Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #323 *God Loved the World*



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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 People

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress, including those who are ill, worried, or in mourning especially we pray for...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory Hymn: #187 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.

Offering Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Preface

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (next page)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.
This is Christ's table, where all are welcome.*

Communion Hymn: #642 Ubi caritas et amor: Where True Charity and Love Abide (congregation sings the verse in italics)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics: "U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, / Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,". The second system has the lyrics: "u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. / God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there." The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with the bass clef providing harmonic support. There are some triplets in the second system.

(Additional hymns may be played if needed.)

Table Blessing

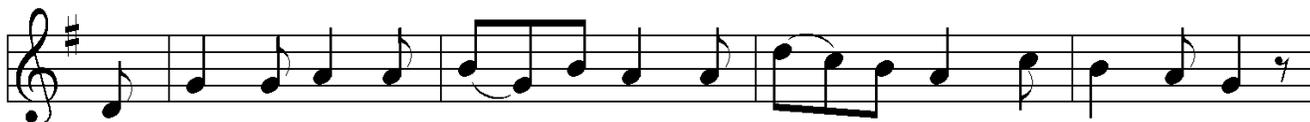
May the body & blood of Jesus, strengthen us, preserve us,
and unite us in Love.

Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving (next page)



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Communion Prayer

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

Go forth into the world, looking for love in all the right places!
We will look for signs of The Helper,
knowing that God is ever present, urging our choice for love!

Almighty God, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #726 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

Second Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2023

Worship Leaders: Vicar Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, and Joni Jones

Musicians: Connie Pallone, Sharon Sorenson

Ushers: Dick & Ann Rasmussen

Communion: Peggy Gustafson and Kathy Humphrey

Sunday Bible Study is at 8:30 a.m., downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying Luther's Small Catechism. If you are new to the Lutheran faith, considering membership or baptism, or want a refresher study, please consider joining us. You can also join us via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82340581969?pwd=V0E5UWNzYXFwK3NoNEUxcmR3SW9KZz09> -- Meeting ID: 823 4058 1969, Passcode: 938515 -- or dial 1 719 359 4580 US

- **Post Worship Adult Education & Potluck:** Following worship we will have our (soon to be) "traditional" First Sunday potluck followed by a brief adult education class entitled Classic Church – Church Becoming. This video and discussion opportunity was recommended for us by the Transition Team. Plan on attending!
- **Lenten Worship & Soup Suppers:** Lenten Sunday worship continues through March 26. Palm Sunday is April 2 and Good Friday worship is at 7 p.m. April 7. Easter Sunday is April 9. During Lent, we share Lenten Soup Suppers at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. Our next Supper is on March 8.
- **March Newsletter:** The March newsletter has been sent via email, and also is available on the Zion's website, and copies are available in the back of the sanctuary.
- **New Members:** We will welcome new members by baptism and faith affirmation during Easter Worship. If you are interested in formally joining Zion's, please talk to Vicar Lisa as soon as possible.
- **Coming Soon:** Women's Bible Study resumes at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 17, in the Fellowship Hall and meets every other Friday.
- **Easter Flowers:** People wishing to donate flowers during Lent when Zion's uses only greenery are encouraged to sign up for Easter flowers. We have a special page in the flower book for Easter donations. Include your name and commemoration for inclusion in the Easter bulletin. The Flower Book is in the back of the sanctuary. Use the envelopes in the book for flower donations, which can be put in the offering plate. The recommended minimum donation is \$35.
- **Zion's Website:** A glitch in the Zion's website domain name has been fixed and you should be able to access our site again.
- **Change in Zoom Broadcasts:** After almost three years of regular broadcast, Zion's discontinued online Zoom at worship services effective March 1. Bible study Zoom will continue as will worship broadcasts during inclement weather or other circumstances that affect the ability of people to attend worship in person.

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