

First Sunday in Lent – February 22, 2026
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

Welcome Friends and Guests: 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.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Jo Moss & Becky McNeil

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson

Ushers – Terri Watson & T.M. Garner

Communion – Kathy Humphrey & Cheryl Leef



Worship & Music: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today for coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

~*Gathering*~
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

Temptation surrounds us every day. **Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven.**

Opportunities to stray litter our path. **Happy are those whose sin is covered.**

Though we stumble and fall, God's mercy picks us up. **God's grace brushes us off.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, **God's love meets us here.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Silent Reflection

Gracious God, **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.**

In the mercy of almighty God...in the name of the Father, and of the $\text{\textt{T}}$ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: #321 (cranberry hymnal) Eternal Lord of Love

Greeting

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

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



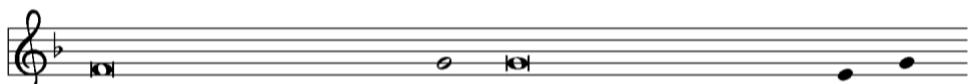
Lord, have mer - cy.



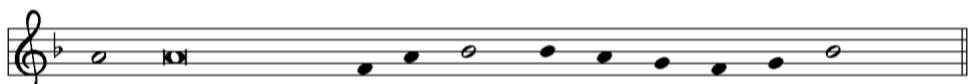
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



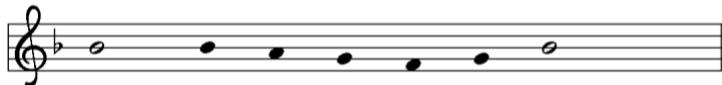
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



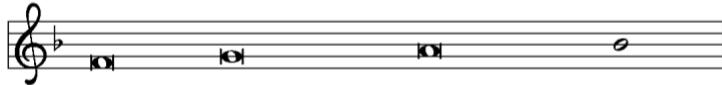
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And, also with you.**

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.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but 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?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but 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.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ So 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. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But 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 gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.

¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore 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. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter four. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying 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.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #922 (purple hymnal) When You are Tested

The 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

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all who are living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Receive the prayers of all who share thanksgiving and relief...

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Peace

The spirit-filled 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/#/titheley/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory: #599 (cranberry hymnal) Lord Jesus Think of Me, vs. 1

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these 40 days...Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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

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...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

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

Taste and see that the Lord is Good.

Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.

God comes to us in worship and song.

God also comes to us in silence and stillness.

Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.

Communion Hymn: #1077 (purple hymnal) Mercy We Abide in You

Table Blessing

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

Communion Song: Lamb of God

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.

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 Blessing (Souper Bowl of Caring)

BenEDICTION

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God's steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and \ddagger give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #808 (cranberry hymnal) Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song

Dismissal

Go in peace to seek justice for all people. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- ⊕ **Fellowship:** Join us after worship each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall for coffee & conversation. All are welcome.
- ⊕ **Souper Bowl of Caring:** We have one more Sunday, Feb. 22, for our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive. Throughout February, we are collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items to donate to the Trinidad Soup Kitchen. At the end of February, all donations will be blessed and given to the Soup Kitchen.
- ⊕ **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore* meets at 10:30 each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⊕ **Lenten Greenery:** During Lent Zion's will opt for green foliage instead of flowers to reflect the austerity and simplicity of the season. We know that some people want to sponsor flowers even during Lent. Prayerfully consider instead another option: select a Sunday after Lent, help sponsor flowers on Easter Sunday, or donate to one of our many ministries and missions, in the name of the person or event that flowers would have recognized.
- ⊕ **Children's Choir Resumes:** Children's choir practice is at 3 p.m. each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⊕ **Lenten Soup Suppers:** At 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday during Lent, Zion's will share a soup supper and devotion. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup, bread, beverages, or dessert. Our next soup supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25.
- ⊕ **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** The Zion's family is invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -- in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- ⊕ **5-Loaves Volunteers Needed:** We will prepare and deliver 5-Loaves meals Feb. 27-28. We need help with preparation beginning about 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, and with deliveries starting about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28. If you can help, let Norine Hazen, Terri Watson, or Jo Moss know.
- ⊕ **God's Work Our Hands:** Terri Watson continues to identify members of our congregation who are willing to help our siblings in Christ with basic assistance, such as rides and errands. Terri has sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall, which help her to match individual needs with people who can assist. For more information talk to Terri.
- ⊕ **The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. each Sunday through March 29, Zion's welcomes The Way ministry to our Fellowship Hall as they offer food and worship to those in need.
- ⊕ **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

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Call to Worship: Written by B.J. Beu and published in Ministry Matters at https://ministrymatters.com/2022-01-22_february_26_2023_first_sunday_in_lent/.

Benediction/Sending (adapted): Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025, and published at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/ash-wednesday-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/ash-wednesday-year-a-liturgical-resources>.