

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 15, 2026
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Jo Moss & T.M. Garner
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil
Ushers – T.M. Garner & Terri Watson
Communion – Kathy Humphrey & Erin Ogletree



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

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 in the Fellowship Hall 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

Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies. **We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.**

The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do. **We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.**

The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God. **We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.**

Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace. **Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! Amen.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ 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: #553 (cranberry hymnal) Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky

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.



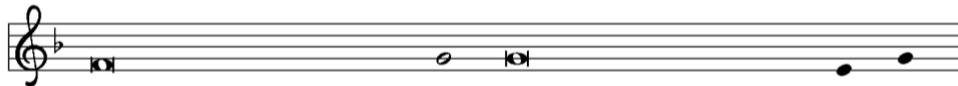
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.**

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Creator God and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

~Word~

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

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light,

⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out

what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather,

expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but

everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Gospel Acclamation:



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John chapter nine.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.

⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.

³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”

³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #779 (cranberry hymnal) Amazing Grace

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, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe, including relief and human rights organizations, in right paths for your name’s sake. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural and human-caused disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant. Transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day especially...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. 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

As evident through all of creation,

God has given freely to us as we freely give now.

You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:

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

Offertory: #599 (cranberry hymnal) Lord Jesus Think of Me, vs. 4

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...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...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...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.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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: #780 (cranberry hymnal) Shepherd Me O God

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 Blessings

Benediction

Beloved, may the blessing of God's mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. And may the grace and peace of God the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer come upon you this day ☩ and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #793 (cranberry hymnal) Be Thou My Vision

Dismissal

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

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.
- + **Church Council:** Zion's council meets after worship, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.
- + **Wednesday Book Club:** The Wednesday Book Club is focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*. It meets at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
- + **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 another option: select a Sunday after Lent, sponsor flowers on Easter Sunday, or donate to one of our many ministries and missions, in the name of the person or event you want to recognize.
- + **Children's Choir:** 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, March 11.
- + **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.
- + **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 Zion's 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 and Benediction (adapted): Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025, and posted by Discipleship Ministries the United Methodist Church at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/fourth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/fourth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-liturgical-resources>.