



**Do not put the Lord
your God to the test**

~ Luke 13:12

Sunday, March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
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HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Three

Regular font: Worship Leader; Bold font: Congregation

GATHERING

WELCOME

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "O Savior, Precious Savior" **ELW 820**

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.

KYRIE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down

before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of ¹ the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of ¹ the Almighty—
² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge ¹ and my stronghold,
my God in whom I ¹ put my trust.”**
⁹ Because you have made the ¹ LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your ¹ habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil ¹ will befall you,
nor shall affliction come ¹ near your dwelling.**
¹¹ For God will give the angels charge ¹ over you,
to guard you in ¹ all your ways.
¹² **Upon their hands they will ¹ bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- ¹ gainst a stone.**
¹³ You will tread upon the lion ¹ cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion ¹ and the serpent.
¹⁴ **I will deliver those who ¹ cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they ¹ know my name.**
¹⁵ They will call me, and I will ¹ answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ¹ honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life will I ¹ satisfy them,
and show them ¹ my salvation**

SECOND READING:

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess
with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God
raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with
the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so
is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be
put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³

For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “The Glory of These Forty Days” **ELW 320**

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (especially). God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As our faith is strengthened by the saints who have gone before us, we remember Rosie Purcell Requena, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. May her life lessons and spirit continue living in

our hearts. We also pray for all our family and friends who have died before us. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

PEACE

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MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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It is indeed right...

SANCTUS

pg. 144

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 146

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow” ELW 327

“Baptized in Water” ELW 456

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Blessing and Honor" ELW 854

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:



The Flowers on the
Altar today are in
memory of
Rosie Purcell-Requena
Given by Rosa Perez
and Geri Ristow and
Family

Prayer List

For Health:	Matthew A	Joan A	For Safety:
Clara W	Bud J	Shirley C	Andrew C
Joyce G	Marjorie F	Diane E	Todd S
Bill B	Jessica A	Dick C	Michael C
Cathy L	Charlotte D	Karen R	Tyler G
Marion B	Jonathan A	Stacey T	Erik B
Lily V	Pauline N	Nancy G	Justin Earl B
Holly N	Curt R	Family of	Evan G
Dylan G	Matthew S	Rosie	David P
Lisa A	Phil O	Purcell-	
Aiden J	Peter W	Requena	
Helen A	Milluzzo and		
Allen H	Neri families		

SERVING TODAY

Pam Nordstrom - Lector
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Lenten Calendar

On **Wednesdays during Lent** we begin The Soup and Substance program together with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton at **6:00 p.m.**



Dates are:
March 12 at Zion
March 19 at Bethlehem
March 26 at Zion
April 2 at Bethlehem
April 9 at Zion



Grace Guild will be collecting donations of **Groceries and Personal items** for the Portland Food Bank during the **month of March**.



SPRING GATHERING 2025

You're Invited! With a special invitation to the ELCA women of eastern

Connecticut to the Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts Conference of the New England WELCA.

April 5, 2025, 9:00-1:45 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

212 Main St. Foxboro, MA 02035

Breakfast and lunch provided.

Fee: \$20 per person, RSVP to office@lcor.org before 4/1

Send questions to Loni Ivanovskis at lonibelle63@yahoo.com

We will collect a gift-in-kind of new or gently-used small kitchen appliances (drip coffee makers particularly needed). A free-will offering during worship for NEWELCA will also be gathered.



Life Line Screening will be here

at Zion on **Tuesday, April 29th**

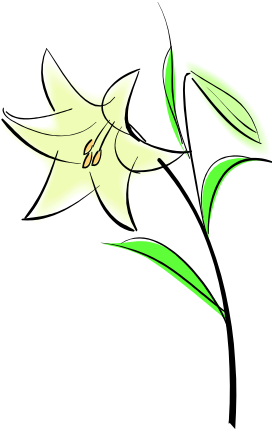
from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If

you would like to register for an appointment call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC



Lent Activity Bags will be available for families on March 9th. Each bag contains items to spark conversation, to dig into scripture, and to create a Lenten devotional practice for children.

Easter Flowers



Anyone who would like to order an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one for Easter may do so by completing this form and returning it by **April 6th** with a **check for \$10 per plant** to:

Attention: **Valerie**
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 202
Portland, CT 06480

Please make checks payable to:
Zion Lutheran Church Flower Fund

Quantity
_____ Lily

In order to beautify Zion's sanctuary, I would like to order Easter Plant(s) in memory of:

Given by:

- I will pick up my Easter Plant after the Service
 Please deliver my Easter Plant to a shut-in member.
 I will deliver my Easter Plant to a shut-in member

Today: March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
Installation of Council Members
10:30 a.m. Adult Education
11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A
Wednesday: **6:00 p.m.** Soup & Substance at Zion
Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A
Saturday: **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** Happy Handz -
Upper Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday:



March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. The Chosen Video
11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Attendance: Last week - 60; Last year - 50
Ash Wednesday - 27; Last year - 17

Next weeks readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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