



Sunday, March 23, 2025
Third 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 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" **ELW 325**

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

pg. 138

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;
7 let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eager-¹ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
weary land where there¹ is no water.
2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your¹ holy place,**
that I might behold your power¹ and your glory.
3 For your steadfast love is better than¹ life itself;
my lips shall¹ give you praise.
4 **So will I bless you as long¹ as I live**
and lift up my hands¹ in your name.
5 My spirit is content, as with the rich-¹est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with¹ joyful lips,
6 **when I remember you up-¹on my bed,**
and meditate on you in¹ the night watches.
7 For you have¹ been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I¹ will rejoice.
8 **My whole being¹ clings to you;**
your right hand¹ holds me fast

Please stand

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?” ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’” ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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 “As Rain from the Clouds” **ELW 508**

APOSTLES’ CREED

pg. 105

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.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils,

and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (especially). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (especially). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (especially). May their witness inspire our own. 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

pg. 128

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

pg. 144

It is indeed right...

SANCTUS

pg. 144

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

pg. 145

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

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

ELW 469

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

ELW 592

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 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" **ELW 543**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Thank You

Thank you to Stephanie Parsons
for the gift of beautiful music.

SERVING TODAY

Howard Swanson - Lector
Peter Willse - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild
Stephanie Parsons - Pianist

Prayer List

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

Environmental Education Center

Join the New England Synod, Yale Divinity School and Hartford International University for Religion and Peace as they welcome:

Mr. Simon Awad, Executive Director of the Environmental Education Center, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Tuesday, March 25 at 5:00 p.m. at Harford International University, Hartford, CT.

Pastor Sara will be attending if anyone from Zion would like to tag along.

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 19 at Bethlehem

March 26 at Zion

April 2 at Bethlehem

April 9 at Zion



*Food
Pantry
Needs*

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



On **Sunday, April 6**, the Bell Committee will meet after church in the library.



On **Sunday, April 6**, the committee discussing handicap/children's area will meet after church.



Anyone interested in renting the Promised Land or Fellowship Hall, should call the church office for price and availability.



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

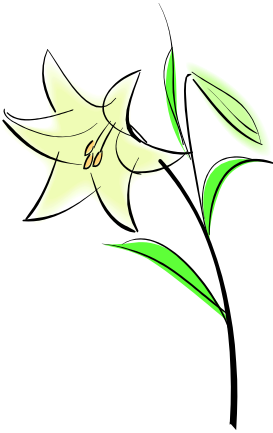


The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for April, May and June** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

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 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

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

Next Sunday:



March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Attendance: Last week - 57; Last year - 51

**Next weeks readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

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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