

Rejoice When One Sinner Repents

~ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2860
www.zionlutheranportland.org
email: zion.lutheran@snet.net

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 "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" **ELW 863**

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

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is¹ put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble; you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;

I will guide you¹ with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;

but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are¹ true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been

working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him! ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” **ELW 608**

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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of

compassion (especially). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (especially). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW 789

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 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory " **ELW 324**

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude:

Prayer List

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

SERVING TODAY

Donna Cote - Lector
Pauline Neumann - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Pianist

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 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**.



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



On **Sunday, April 6**, the committee discussing handicap/children's (Special Needs) 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

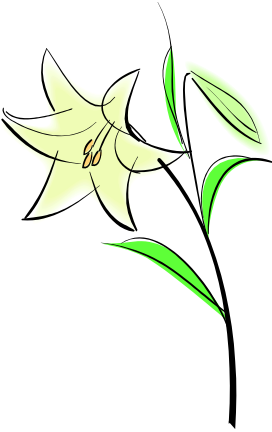


The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for April, May and June** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.



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 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:15 a.m. Bell Committee

10:15 a.m. Special Needs Area Committee

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Wednesday: **6:00 p.m.** Soup & Substance at Bethlehem

6:30 p.m. Property/Finance

Thursday: **5:30 p.m.** Cub Scouts

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

Next Sunday:



April 6, 2025

Fifth 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 - 57; Last year - 60

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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