



Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third 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 Four

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

Time for Meditation and Personal Prayer

Prelude

WELCOME

GATHERING

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW 335

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

ELW 155

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord,

“What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.”⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg. 151

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the

woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" (vs 1-4)
ELW 777

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (especially), and bring relief to places damaged by floods (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

PEACE

pg. 152

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (vs. 4)

ELW 803

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING pg. 152

It is indeed right...

SANCTUS pg. 153

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*Traditional*) pg. 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD pg. 154

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" **ELW 623**

"O Bread of Life From Heaven" **ELW 480**

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
+ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"O Day of Peace"

ELW 711

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

SERVING TODAY

Deb Gustafson - Lector

Geri Ristow - Worship Assistant

Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg, - Ushers/Greeters

Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild

Sarah Dzialo - Organist



Join us for Adult Bible Study - Rescheduled to March 8

We are excited to dive into Season 5 of The Chosen! We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the lounge after worship.

Please join us on March 8th as we explore Season 5, Episode 1. You can watch Season 5, Episode 1 here:

<https://watch.thechosen.tv/video/184683621777>

The study guide can be ordered on Amazon.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Sara



Lenten Series with Bishop Pippo on the ELCA's Faith and Civic Life Social Statement (Thursdays in Lent--2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19-- at 7PM)

Please join us for this online discussion on Thursdays in Lent. Amidst the turmoil we experience in our society today, the guidance of this social statement is all the more important for

how Christians (and Lutheran Christians!) engage the world in faith. You can register for the program here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZZm9Yk45Fx-iQfDclzCrr_P7a7X0EVUFvttPR-CwcERrYDg/viewform

To register without having to type in all these letters and numbers, see Zion Happenings (the email newsletter that Michelle sends)

Anyone interested in volunteering for Coffee Hour you can sign up for a Sunday on the sign up sheet in the narthex. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just a simple snack to share for a time of fellowship after the church service. See Sandy Chiasson for details.

Prayer List

For Health:			For Safety:
Joyce G	Jessica A	Charline C	Andrew C
Bill B	Charlotte D	Alexis R	Todd S
Cathy L	Jonathan A	Malynda A	Michael C
Marion B	Pauline N	Family of	Tyler G
Lily V	Curt R	Harry W	Erik B
Holly N	Matthew S	Annamaria T	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Joan A	Brenda B	Evan G
Lisa A	Diane E	Lee T	David P
Aiden J	Dick C	Judi E	
Helen A	Karen R	Liam S	
Matthew A	Stacey T	Jamie S-R	
Bud J	Pat J	Don R	
Marjorie F	Lois B	David O	
	Loee M	Michael G	



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



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Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

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 11 at Zion

March 18 at Bethlehem

March 25 at Zion



Alms Giving

Through alms giving, we also can draw closer to God during Lent. Being charitable to others helps us look beyond ourselves. By helping those in need, we are acting in faith and giving freely of our love, as the Lord does with us.

Beginning February 22, we will be collecting items for the Portland Food Bank on the following schedule:

February 22 - Shampoo, Conditioner

March 1 - Soap, Bodywash

March 8 - Paper goods - Toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, napkins

March 15 - Toothpaste, toothbrushes mouthwash, dental floss

March 22 - Deodorant, feminine products

March 29 - shaving cream, hand lotion, body lotion

Please place items in the shopping cart in the Narthex.



Life Line Screening will be here

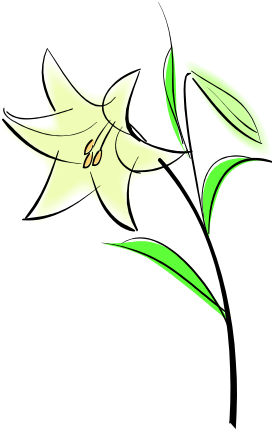
at Zion on **Tuesday, April 28th**

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

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 **March 22nd** 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 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. Adult Education - The Chosen

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

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

Tuesday: **9:30 a.m.** Happy Handz

Wednesday: **6:00 p.m.** Soup and Substance at Zion

Thursday: **10:30 a.m.** Funeral

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

Next Sunday:



March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Adult Education

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Attendance: Last Sunday - 53; Last year - 60

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

9:00 a.m. Worship

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