

**Jesus said to them,
“Unbind him,
and
let him go.”**

~ John 11:38-44

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
P.O. Box 202, 183 William Street
Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2860
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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 "Dearest Jesus, At Your Word" **ELW 520**

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

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put

breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

¹ Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, | hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen-^lteous redemption.
⁸ **For the LORD shall^l redeem Israel
from^l all their sins.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL READING

John 11:38-44

The holy gospel according to John the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days."
⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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 "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

ELW 754

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.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (local places in nature may be named). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (especially). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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

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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

“Here is Bread”

ELW 483

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

ELW 494

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 "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" **ELW 618**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

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	Annamaria T	Tyler G
Lily V	Curt R	Brenda B	Erik B
Holly N	Matthew S	Lee T	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Joan A	Judi E	Evan G
Lisa A	Diane E	Liam S	David P
Aiden J	Dick C	Jamie S-R	
Helen A	Karen R	Don R	
Matthew A	Stacey T	David O	
Bud J	Pat J	Michael G	
Marjorie F	Lois B		
	Loee M		

SERVING TODAY

Don Roche - Lector
Deb Gustafson - Worship Assistant
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg, - Ushers/Greeters
Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Join us for Zion's 2nd annual Spiritual Salon!

Sunday, March 22 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary

In these last days of darkness and cold weather, let's share the warmth of each other's company at our second annual Spiritual Salon!*

Church members young and old are invited to share a Bible passage, meaningful poem, piece of spiritual trivia, song or piece of music, or anecdote about something spiritually meaningful to you. Take a few minutes to share with us, or just sit back and enjoy the atmosphere. Refreshments will follow. RSVP to Sylvia LeShane: sleshane98@gmail.com or Text/Call: 860-759-6418. Hope to see you there!

**Salon (historical definition): a social gathering of people (especially writers, artists, philosophers and sometimes musicians) at the house of a person prominent in high society. These gatherings – which flourished in Italy and then France in the 16th through 19th centuries – followed Horace's definition of the aims of poetry, either to please or to educate"(Latin: aut delectare aut prodesse). At our Zion gathering, we will add a spiritual aspect to this tradition for all to enjoy.*

Etymology: The term "salon" comes from the French, meaning "reception room," from Italian salone (large hall,"and earlier from Old High German sal hall, house"(Modern German Saal).



Thank you to Rosa Perez and Geri Ristow for organizing and hosting coffee hour today.



New England Chamber Choir will be performing “Music for Winter’s End” on **Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m.** at Saint John Roman Catholic Church, 19 Saint

John Square, Middletown.

Richard Wm. Donohue, Conductor.

Music of Bach, Byrd, Handle, Josquin, Stanford, and more. Each performance is preceded by thirty minutes of instrumental music.

Admission is free and donations are appreciated.

For more information their website is

www.newenglandchamberchoir.org

WORK ZONE

Notice:

At the end of March, work will start on the outside of the building. This should not disrupt the flow of traffic, but occasionally, certain entrances will be closed and areas will be roped off and marked “No Parking” for safety reasons.



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

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.**

The last date is:

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.

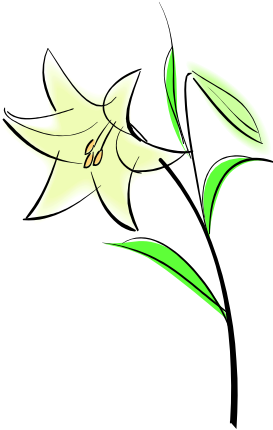


Life Line Screening will be here at Zion on **Tuesday, April 28th** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you would like to register for an

appointment call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

Last Day to Order

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



Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.



RaiseRight

RaiseRight Gift Cards

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip)

cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for January, February and March** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.

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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



Emergency Closings due to weather will be announced on the following channels:
Channel 3 , Channel 30, Channel 61, Channel 8

Today: March 22, 2026

Fifth 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: **7:00 p.m.** Fife & Drum rehearsal

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

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

Next Sunday: March 29, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Next weeks readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14—27:66

Attendance: Last Sunday - 63; Last year - 57

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

9:00 a.m. Worship

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