



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

***My Song Is Love Unknown* RED ELW #343**

(Vs. 1-4)

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.
- 4 We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes
that he his foes from thence might free.

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—*Have mercy on us, Lord*

RED ELW page 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:9-16

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean?

By keeping to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not stray from your commandments.**

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD;
instruct me in your statutes.**

¹³With my lips I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

**Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord
Help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord
We want to see Jesus**

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises RED ELW #379

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

We Are an Offering RED ELW #692

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and provide all good things.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with your word
but also with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING & DEDICATION OF KITCHENETTE

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing RED ELW #545

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.
- 2 Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when your love shall call us
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.



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Worship Assistants

March 17

Ushers: Nancy Mathwig, Larry Klunder
Mark & Lisa Strobel
Greeters: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
Acolyte: Grant Schauer
Reader: Nancy Mathwig
Organist: Bobette Schauer
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

March 20—Wednesday

Ushers: Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Greeters: Mary Lietz
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson
Reader: Brad Danielson
Organist: Brenda Danielson
AV Team: Tim Michaelis
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

March 24—Palm Sunday (Contemporary)

Ushers: Jane Scharpe & Dave Breyer
Sheri & Maya Kumar
Greeters: Stephanie & Murdock Krueger
Acolyte: Ashley Schauer
Reader: Joe Prasad
Organist: Brenda Danielson
AV Team: Joe Prasad & Elton Hazelwood
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Christy Hebeisen, Lowell Tritabaugh, Jenna Dobner, Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier, Glen Lueders, Cindy Hebeisen, Mark Zeiher and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Meet Pastor Gretchen—Sign up for time to meet with Pastor Gretchen on the bulletin board or set up a time that works in your schedule. I am eager to get to know all of you!

A Blessing and Dedication of the Kitchenette will be on Sunday, March 17. The new kitchenette was possible thanks to the generous memorial gift given by the Tews family in memory of Bea.

Coffee time following the service will include some of Bea's favorite desserts. Please join us!

Along with the dedication of the kitchenette in the fellowship room, we also celebrate those members who have birthdays in January February and March. Thank you for all you do for Zion!
Board of Stewardship

Bible Study—Reaching out for Interest in a Bible Study...

Are you interested in joining an evening bible study group? Are you willing to lead a bible study group? How often would you like to meet? Which kind of topics would you be interested in? If you are interested in leading or being part of an evening bible study, please reach out to any Board of Education member Sheri Kumar, Cindy Vasquez or Tina Schauer.

Feed My Starving Children - Chanhassen

If you and your friends would like to spend a Saturday afternoon in April putting together meals for children around the world, please contact Jane Scharpe or sign up on the Let There Be Light on the bulletin board in the narthex. Anyone 5 years & older can do it. What a great time for fellowship and sharing our time & talents. We need to reserve spaces so please respond ASAP. Possible dates for the 2:30-4:15 spots: April 6 or April 20.



If you have not yet made your donation, not to worry, you still have time! Now through April 6, your donation is multiplied by the Food Fund!

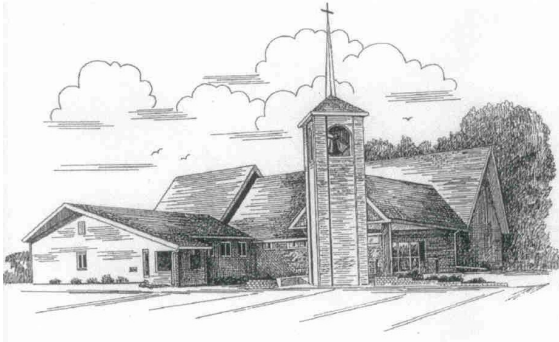
Did you know??

7,551,147 Minnesotans were served at food shelves in 2023? This was up from 5,505,100 in 2022.

Minnesota Valley Conference Women of the ELCA are meeting for their Spring Gathering at Grace Lutheran Church in Brownton, Minnesota on Saturday, April, 13. Registration will be at 11:30 with lunch at 12:00. Registration cost remains the same at \$12.00. {The speaker this year will be Kim Dickey, from Global Health Ministries. This is the place that takes rolled bandages, along with many other health kits and items. Their work is so valuable to undersupplied nations.} One half of the offering will go to Global Health Ministries.

Thank you to everyone who helped during Spring Cleaning!

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Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, March 17	9:00a 10:00a 10:15a 1-3:00p	Worship—Live-stream, in-person Sunday School Choir Rehearsal Maranatha Church
Wednesday, March 20	5:30p 6:30p	Lenten Supper Lenten Worship—Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
Thursday, March 21	10:00a 6-8p	Adult Bible Study Maranatha Church
Sunday, March 24	9:00a 10:00a 10:15a 1-3:00p	Contemporary Worship—Live-stream, in-person Sunday School Choir Rehearsal Maranatha Church

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Office Hours for the week of March 17

Monday, 3/18—1p-6p

Tuesday, 3/19—2:30p-5p

Wednesday, 3/20—1p-4p

Thursday, 3/21—11a-1p; 2p-3p

or by appointment