**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

**WOODLAND, MI**



**Midweek Lenten Service**

**March 18, 2020**

**Week of Lent 3: Change of Circumstances**

We move from elementary to middle school, or from our hometown to a new community. We lose a job, or gain a child, or accomplish a goal, or relinquish a dream. Through it all, we learn to give thanks to God in all circumstances.

**OPENING DIALOGUE**

For all our blessings, we give thanks to the Lord.

**God is our rock and salvation, a help in times of plenty.**

With all our burdens, we pray to the Lord.

**God is our rock and salvation, a help in times of need.**

In all our celebrations, we sing praise to the Lord.

**God is our rock and salvation, a help in times of joy.**

With all our grief, we cry to the Lord.

**God is our rock and salvation,**

**a help in times of sorrow.**

We will not fear, though the earth should change.

**God is our rock and salvation; thanks be to God!**

**PRAYER**

O God our rock and salvation, you walk with us through all the ups and downs of life. Whatever our circumstances, bring us closer to you. Teach us to rejoice in the good times, find hope through the bad times, and always place our trust in you. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

**PSALM Psalm 103:1-5, 13-18**

1Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and all that is within me,  
 bless his holy name.  
**2Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
 and do not forget all his benefits —** 3who forgives all your iniquity,  
 who heals all your diseases,  
 **4who redeems your life from the Pit,  
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**  
 5who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**13As a father has compassion for his children,  
 so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**  
 14For he knows how we were made;  
 he remembers that we are dust.  
**15As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
 they flourish like a flower of the field;** 16for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
 and its place knows it no more.  
**17But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
 on those who fear him,  
 and his righteousness to children's children,** 18to those who keep his covenant  
 and remember to do his commandments.

**READING 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

12But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; 13esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. 15See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil.  
23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING Luke 12:22-34**

### The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

22He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 26If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith! 29And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.  
32Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**EFLECTION**

**PRAYERS**

O God our help,

you walk with us through all of life’s changes.

**Grant us strength, patience, wisdom, and understanding.**

O God our hope,

you come to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

**Show us your salvation,**

**and lead us in the way of the cross.**

O God our shelter,

you enfold us like a mother hen gathering her chicks.

**Watch over all who are sick, grieving, lonely, and in need this day.**

O God our home, you claim us as your beloved children.

**Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.**

All this we ask through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**HEALING SERVICE**

You are all invited to come forward to be anointed with oil. This anointing on your forehead is a very old gesture used to give strength on the journey of being healed and healing others. If you wish to participate, please come forward after the prayers.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,

and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace.

Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Mighty God,

mercifully grant strength to the weak

and comfort to those who suffer,

that their sickness and pain may be turned into health.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

God of peace and reconciliation,

bring an end to the sickness of the world,

especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Holy God, Holy One,

your Son prayed that your people may be one.

May the gift of baptism be a power

for healing the church’s brokenness,

and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Loving God,

mend broken relationships and bring peace

to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed. Heal the pain of all who grieve.

In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

O God, we bring these intercessions before you,

knowing that you will hear us as you have promised,

and will answer according to the mercy shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please come forward for healing.*

**BLESSING**

The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways.

In the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

Some of the prayers are based on the text of “O God, our help in ages past” (ELW 632; text by Isaac Watts) and Luke 23:42.

Text of the Lord’s Prayer from “Salvation unto us has come” (ELW 590). Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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