**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Midweek Lenten Service, February 24, 2021**

**Week of Lent 1: Change of Season**

“For everything there is a season.” We hear those familiar words telling us that life is full of changes. Jesus’ parables are also filled with images of life transformed. Just as the mustard seed grows into a tree or yeast turns flour into read, we too are called to be agents of change in the kingdom of God. Christ did not come to earth to maintain the status quo, but rather to usher in a change of season.

**OPENING DIALOGUE**

O God, you are the source of our hope.

**Guide us through change and chance.**

When we grow weary and faint,

**call our hearts to be your own.**

When our plans fall to dust,

**be our temple and our tower**

When the world lacks joy and beauty,

**reveal your splendor, light, and life.**

O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.

**Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.**

**GATHERING SONG “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” ELW 769**



**PRAYER**

O God of the ages, your creation revolves through seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night. When the seasons come and go and uncertainty looms ahead, we long for the constancy of your love. Give us courage, wisdom, and patience to be your agents of change in the world. In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

**PSALM Psalm 90:1-6, 12-17**

 1LORD, you have been our dwelling place
 in all generations.
**2Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
 from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
 3You turn us back to dust,
 and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
**4For a thousand years in your sight
 are like yesterday when it is past,
 or like a watch in the night.** 5You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
 like grass that is renewed in the morning;
**6in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
 in the evening it fades and withers.** 12So teach us to count our days
 that we may gain a wise heart.
**13Turn, O LORD! How long?
 Have compassion on your servants!** 14Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
 so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
**15Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
 and as many years as we have seen evil.** 16Let your work be manifest to your servants,
 and your glorious power to their children.
**17Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,
 and prosper for us the work of our hands —
 O prosper the work of our hands!**

**READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

1For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
 2a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 3a time to kill, and a time to heal;
 a time to break down, and a time to build up;
 4a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
 5a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
 a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
 6a time to seek, and a time to lose;
 a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
 7a time to tear, and a time to sew;
 a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
 8a time to love, and a time to hate;
 a time for war, and a time for peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING Luke 13:18-21**

### The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

18He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? 19It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
20And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? 21It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**REFLECTION Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” ELW 325**



**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**SENDING SONG “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733**



**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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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**