**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to 1620 AM\***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338**

 

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**First Reading**    **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A reading from Jeremiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm  Psalm 51:1-12**

 1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
  in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
 2**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,**
  **and cleanse me | from my sin.**
 3For I know | my offenses,
  and my sin is ev- | er before me.
 4**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;**
  **so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
 5Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
  a sinner from my | mother’s womb.
 6**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,**
  **and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
 7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
  wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
 8**Let me hear | joy and gladness;**
  **that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
 9Hide your face | from my sins,
  and blot out | all my wickedness.
 10**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,**
  **and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
 11Cast me not away | from your presence,
  and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
 12**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation**
  **and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

**Second Reading**  **Hebrews 5:5-10**

A reading from Hebrews.

5Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
 “You are my Son,
  today I have begotten you”;
6as he says also in another place,
 “You are a priest forever,
  according to the order of Melchizedek.”
  7In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Return to the Lord, your God,**

**for he is gracious and merciful,**

**slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Gospel** **John 12:20-33**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 Pastor Michael Anton**

**Hymn of the Day “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW 759**



**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. We pray especially for Immanuel Lutheran Church and Rev. John Ferra. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for Deb Smith, Justine Sleight, Dave LaNew, Mary Smith, Ron Campbell and his family, Patty Olmstead, Dana Traub, Laura Lynch-Halliburton, Lisa Hetchler, Terry Speese, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Jerry Southgate, Vi Aho, and Chris and Charles Farlee. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW 772**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider: Pastor Michael Anton**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

**Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie and Mike Johnson**

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids and Rev. John Ferra.**

Prayers for our friends, especially for Deb Smith, Justine Sleight, Dave LaNew, Mary Smith, Ron Campbell and his family, Patty Olmstead, Dana Traub, Laura Lynch-Halliburton, Lisa Hetchler, Terry Speese, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Jerry Southgate, Vi Aho, and Chris and Charles Farlee. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* + Zion’s church council has decided that drive in services will be held through Easter Sunday and are shooting for starting in church services on April 11 if the case numbers continue to stay in the same range.
	+ **Easter Flowers:** It’s time to put in your orders for our Easter flower garden. Lilies are not going to be an option in the event that we are outside, as they will not hold up well if it’s chilly. Each flower costs $8.95 and comes in a 6 inch pot. The choices are Miniature daffodils, Red or White Tulips, and Blue, Purple or White Hyacinths.
	+ **Easter Egg Hunt:** Zion will host an Easter Egg Hunt for our youth members (no age restrictions) immediately following the Easter morning service. We’re excited to bring some normalcy to a year that as affected us and our children.
	We will be purchasing the candy and Mary Makley will be organizing a time for small groups of volunteers to fill the eggs at church. Please watch the bulletin for more updates or contact Martha or Jolene with questions.
	+ **Zion to host Christmas tree farm:** As you start spring cleaning or visiting garage sales, be on the lookout for artificial Christmas trees and ornaments to donate. In conjunction with the Christmas Around the Town we will host a Christmas Tree Farm at Zion for those in need to get the decorations to bring some holiday cheer to their homes. We’ll share more details as it gets closer. Please contact Martha or Jolene with questions.
	+ **Zion is starting a tech team to do the live stream for our services. Paul Meade will be glad to train people. Please let Pastor Becky or Paul know if you would like to serve in this way.**
	+ Council has voted to suspend in-person services until the positivity rate drops to 3%. People may continue to listen to the service in the parking and live-streamed.