**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Third Sunday in Lent, March 20, 2022**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

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

**GREETING**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

**Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. To you, O God,

**all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618**



**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.

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Isaiah 55:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

 1Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
 and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
  without money and without price.
 2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
  and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
  and delight yourselves in rich food.
 3Incline your ear, and come to me;
  listen, so that you may live.
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
  my steadfast, sure love for David.
 4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
  a leader and commander for the peoples.
 5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
  and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
 because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
  for he has glorified you.

 6Seek the Lord while he may be found,
  call upon him while he is near;
 7let the wicked forsake their way,
  and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
  and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
  nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
 9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
  so are my ways higher than your ways
  and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 63:1-8**

 1O God, you are my God; eager- **|** ly I seek you;
  my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there **|** is no water.
 2**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,**
  **that I might behold your power | and your glory.**
 3For your steadfast love is better than **|** life itself;
  my lips shall **|** give you praise.
 4**So will I bless you as long | as I live**
  **and lift up my hands | in your name.**
 5My spirit is content, as with the rich- **|** est of foods,
  and my mouth praises you with **|** joyful lips,
 6**when I remember you up- | on my bed,**
  **and meditate on you in | the night watches.**
 7For you have **|** been my helper,
  and under the shadow of your wings I **|** will rejoice.
 8**My whole being | clings to you;**
  **your right hand | holds me fast.**

**Second Reading**   **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians

1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.
 6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word,

we will trust your word.

**Gospel** **Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.2[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”
 6Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW 712**



**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**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. We pray especially for Christ Lutheran Church and Rev. Ryan Prodzinski. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. For the people of Ukraine and for a coming of peace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (names and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & Offering song “Create in Me a Clean Heart” ELW 186**



**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

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

**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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good. You may receive your communion elements.

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with all the fullness of God.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “O Living Bread from Heaven” ELW 542**



**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 Becky Ebb Speese**

**Musician: Chris Bush**

**Elder: Paul Meade**

 **Trustee: Dan Zylstra**

**Offering Counters: Jerry Engle & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person: Dan Zylstra**

**This week at Zion:**

* Board of Youth and Education, 11:30 today, March 20
* Women’s Book Study, 6:30 PM, Tuesday, March 22
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, March 23
* Lent Service 7PM Wednesday, March 23
* Newsletter deadline, Wednesday, March 23 evening

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Easter Garden:** There’s a sign-up sheet in the narthex to order flowers for the Easter Garden. Lilies are $12.95, mini daffodils are $10, both come in 6” pots. Please order by March 27 and pay Mary Makley by April 3. Questions? See Mary.
* **Lay Leader:** Lay leader needed for May 23. Please see Pastor Becky if interested.
* **Hearing Devices:** We have hearing devises that are now working! They are in the narthex. Ask the usher to get one for you!
* **Table Shower:** There will be a table shower to welcome Nick and Samantha Bite's newest child: Logan Dale Bite. The shower will run through April. Please watch for more details.
* **Fellowship Fun!** On the 4th Sundays of the month, the fellowship committee would like to encourage members to bring their board games or card games to play and teach other members. There will be also coffee fellowship these days.
* **Fellowship Meeting:** We will meet Sunday, March 27th after worship to discuss more fellowship opportunities for our congregation. Please join us to plan out the rest of the year.
* **Lutheran World Relief challenge:** Lutheran World Relief is already at work in helping the people of Ukraine. Any offerings designated to this agency through your offerings (there is a place to designate to LWR on your offering envelopes) will be matched up to $258,000. We will be designating those offerings to go specifically to Ukraine from March through May. Watch the thermometer in the narthex to see our progress in donations!
* **Visioning Process:** There is a sign up sheet in the narthex  if you would like to be a part of our new visioning process. As this group is visioning what we would like to see as Zion moves into the future, voices of all ages and those old and new in the congregation are very important. There will be a meeting with Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor David Sprang on Sunday, April 3 following worship. Please sign up if you are planning to attend. You may contact Paul Meade, Pastor Becky or any council member for questions or more information.
* **Easter Egg Hunt:** Zion will host an Easter Egg Hunt following service on Easter morning, Sunday, April 17. We're asking the congregation to consider donating individually wrapped candy and coins for the eggs by April 3rd. Non-chocolate candy or gum are also requested. Please bring your kids, grandkids or any other kiddos to our Easter Egg Hunt!

**Lenten Focus**

Each week throughout lent, our Wednesday services will have a different focus. We will highlight each week’s theme and verse here as we continue through the Lenten season. This week’s focus is Open My Ears.

In Matthew 13:13-17, Jesus’ says:.

13The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' 14With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:
 'You will indeed listen, but never understand,
 and you will indeed look, but never perceive.
 15For this people's heart has grown dull,
 and their ears are hard of hearing,
 and they have shut their eyes;
 so that they might not look with their eyes,
 and listen with their ears,
 and understand with their heart and turn —
 and I would heal them.'
16But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

Ancient Greek philosophy notes that we have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak. Jesus reminds us that we sometimes hear but don’t listen, listen but don’t understand. Opening our ears isn’t as easy as it sounds.