**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Midweek Lent Service, March 23, 2022**

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



**OPENING DIALOGUE**

As children, we hear:

**Don’t touch! Slow down!**

As teenagers, we hear:

**Your curfew begins in an hour.**

As adults, we hear:

**Cash or credit?**

In the water and the word, we hear:

**You are loved, my precious child.**

**GATHERING SONG “Open Now the Gates of Beauty” ELW 533**



**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**

**Open our ears, Lord, to heed your will for our lives. Help us not only to hear, but to listen and understand with our hearts. In Jesus’ name we pray.** **Amen.**

**READING Isaiah 50:4-5**

A reading from Isaiah.

 4The Lord GOD has given me
 the tongue of a teacher,
 that I may know how to sustain
 the weary with a word.
 Morning by morning he wakens —
 wakens my ear
 to listen as those who are taught.
 5The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
 and I was not rebellious,
 I did not turn backward.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Psalm 40:1-8**

**1I waited patiently for the LORD;
 he inclined to me and heard my cry.** 2He drew me up from the desolate pit,
 out of the miry bog,
 and set my feet upon a rock,
 making my steps secure.
**3He put a new song in my mouth,
 a song of praise to our God.
 Many will see and fear,
 and put their trust in the LORD.** 4Happy are those who make
 the LORD their trust,
 who do not turn to the proud,
 to those who go astray after false gods.
**5You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
 your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
 none can compare with you.
 Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
 they would be more than can be counted.** 6Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
 but you have given me an open ear.
 Burnt offering and sin offering
 you have not required.
**7Then I said, "Here I am;
 in the scroll of the book it is written of me.**
 8I delight to do your will, O my God;
 your law is within my heart."

**READING Matthew 13:10-17**

A reading from Matthew.

10Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" 11He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **“Dearest Jesus at Your Word” ELW 520**



**PRAYERS**

Lord of all life,

when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

**open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.**

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

**open our hands to do your work in the world.**

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

**open our ears, that all will know your love.**

When we are hardened against our neighbor,

**open our hearts and heal our resentment.**

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

**open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**PEACE**

**PRAYER** (ELW, p. 64, adapt.)

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross.

The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Listen, God Is Calling” ELW 513**



**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**