**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 27, 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“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW 807**

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**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.

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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**    **Joshua 5:9-12**

A reading from Joshua.

9The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 32**

1Happy are they whose transgressions **|** are forgiven,  
  and whose sin is **|** put away!  
 2**Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,**  
  **and in whose spirit there | is no guile!** R  
 3While I held my tongue, my bones with- **|** ered away,  
  because of my groaning **|** all day long.  
 4**For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;**  
  **my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**  
 5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- **|** ceal my guilt.  
  I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt **|** of my sin.  
 6**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;**  
  **when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**   
 7You are my hiding-place; you preserve **|** me from trouble;  
  you surround me with shouts **|** of deliverance.  
 8**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**  
  **I will guide you | with my eye.**  
 9Do not be like horse or mule, which have no **|** understanding;  
  who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will **|** not stay near you.”

10**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;**  
  **but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**  
 11Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice **|** in the Lord;  
  shout for joy, all who are **|** true of heart.

**Second Reading**   **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

A reading from 2 Corinthians

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
 3So he told them this parable: 11b“There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.  
 25“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Polly Standley**

**Hymn of the Day “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW 608**

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**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.*

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. We pray especially for St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict, especially Ukraine . Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. 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**

Timeline

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**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 “What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666**

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**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 Polly Standley**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

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

**Safety Person: Jerry Engle**

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, March 23
* Lent Service 7PM Wednesday, March 23
* Worship Planning, 4:30 PM Thursday, March 31

**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.
* **Special Music:** If you are interested in providing special music on Good Friday and/or Easter Sunday, please let Pastor Becky know.
* **Lay Leader:** Lay leader needed for May 22. 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 Heart.

In Acts 16:11-15, Paul says:.

11We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, 12and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. 13On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. 14A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. 15When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Listening to Paul’s teaching, Lydia opened her heart to God and was baptized. Her willing, trusting faith echoes down through the centuries as we witness her “open heart procedure.”