**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 3, 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“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW 324**



**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.

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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**    **Isaiah 43:16-21**

A reading from Isaiah.

 16Thus says the Lord,
  who makes a way in the sea,
  a path in the mighty waters,
 17who brings out chariot and horse,
  army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
  they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
 18Do not remember the former things,
  or consider the things of old.
 19I am about to do a new thing;
  now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
  and rivers in the desert.
 20The wild animals will honor me,
  the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
  rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
  21the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 126**

 1When the Lord restored the for- **|** tunes of Zion,
  then were we like **|** those who dream.
 2**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**
  **Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great | things for them.”**
 3The Lord has done great **|** things for us,
  and we are **|** glad indeed.
 4**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,**
  **like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**
 5Those who **|** sowed with tears
  will reap with **|** songs of joy.
 6**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**
  **will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

**Second Reading**   **Philippians 3:4b-14**

A reading from Phillippians.

[Paul writes:] 4bIf anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
 7Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
 12Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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** **John 12:1-8**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor David Sprang**

**Hymn of the Day “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335**



**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.*

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. We pray especially for Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Gerald Ferguson, and Rev. Danielle Shealy. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations, especially with the conflict with Ukraine. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued (especially). Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. 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 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Speaker: Pastor David Sprang**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

 **Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**Offering Counters: Mary Makley & Martha Yoder**

**Safety Person: Diane Griffin**

**This week at Zion:**

* Visioning Gathering today after service with Pastor David Sprang
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, April 6
* Lent Service 7PM Wednesday, April 6

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Easter Lite Continental Breakfast**: There will be a lite continental breakfast on Easter morning starting at 9:30 AM. If you plan to attend, please sign up by Palm Sunday. There is also a sign-up sheet if you would like to donate breakfast food items.
* **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!
* **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 Life.

Galatians 2:15-21 says:.

15We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; 16yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. 17But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. 19For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; 20and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Moses presents us with a choice: death and adversity, or a life cracked open to the love of God. Writing to the Galatians, Paul tells us that we have died to the law so that we might live to God. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us.

Consider inviting a member of the congregation to share one way in which God has opened his or her life.