**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2023**

**\*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.**

**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“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” ELW 504**



**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.

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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**    **Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

A reading from Genesis.

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”
 3:1Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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!**
 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**   **Romans 5:12-19**

A reading from Romans.

12Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.
 15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.
 18Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel** **Matthew 4:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4But he answered, “It is written,
 ‘One does not live by bread alone,
  but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
 ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
  and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”
7Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”
 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 ‘Worship the Lord your God,
  and serve only him.’ ”
11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**children’s SERMON Pastor Alex Steward**

**SERMON Pastor Alex Steward**

**Hymn of the Day “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” ELW 325**



**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**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. We pray especially for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Au Gres and Rev. Max Miller. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love.

We pray especially for the MSU community and for the people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



**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 in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**communion**

\**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“When Peace Like a River” ELW 785**



**“Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” ELW 517**



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



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Alex Steward**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Levi Griffin**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

 **Trustee: Martha Yoder**

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

**Safety Person: Diane Griffin**

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, March 1
* Soup Service, 6 PM Wednesday, March 1
* Lenten Service, 7 PM Wednesday, March 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Ballot Update:** Ballots for the proposal to lock doors during worship service and to use a bell/buzzer/camera system to determine who should be allowed in were due back on February 12th. The ballots were counted prior to the Council meeting on February 14th. There were 22 yes votes and 21 no votes. Council discussed next steps at its meeting and will be working with the Safety Committee to determine a plan of action to implement a new safety plan for worship services. If you have questions or feedback, please feel free to speak with any member of Council or the Safety Committee. Thank you for everyone who voted on this important issue.
* **Reminder**: During the heating season, please leave the Sunday School classroom doors open when not in use otherwise the opening area will be very cold. Please close the doors to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall when not in use. Thank you.
* **Help for the People of Turkey and Syria**: You can help the people of Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake this week by designating your giving to Lutheran Disaster Response.
* **Coffee Fellowship:** Now that coffee fellowship is back to normal, the revised schedule is on the table in the Narthex, posted on the bulletin board, and included each month in the newsletter. The changes that were marked on the sheet in the narthex were included in this new document. If you have any additional edits or want to volunteer for the three months we don't have anyone signed up, please let Jolene know. The Fellowship Committee has decided coffee fellowship will be on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. If you need to switch a Sunday, please find someone to switch with and let Tara know so the correct name is in the bulletin and newsletter. When hosting, you are welcome to provide what's best for you. Cookies, juice and coffee are great, so are small appetizers and so are meals. We appreciate anything you provide! Thank you for hosting these important gatherings!
* **Easter Egg Hunt:** Zion will host an Easter Egg Hunt following service on Easter morning, Sunday, April 9. We're asking the congregation to consider donating candy and coins for the eggs by March 26. Non-chocolate candy or gum are also requested. Please provide small items that can fit into the eggs. Please bring your kids, grandkids or any other kiddos to our Easter Egg Hunt!
* **Welcome Bishop Satterlee:** On March 12th, Bishop Satterlee will worship with us, preach, and hold a meeting in the sanctuary following service to explain the call process and answer questions. We will have a coffee fellowship lunch following the meeting.
* **Directory updates:** Chris Farlee’s correct cell number is 517-231-4533, and Kevin Brodbeck’s correct address is 12313 N Clinton Trail, Sunfield, MI 48890