**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Midweek Lent Service, March 22, 2023**

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



**OPENING DIALOGUE**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,

**and he sustains all things by his powerful word.**

Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus,

**let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.**

**GATHERING SONG “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” ELW 802**



**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.**

**READING Hebrews 12:1-2**

A reading from Hebrews.

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTION Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

*The reflection will conclude with:*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,

**the conviction of things not seen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742**



**PRAYERS**

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,

**that all may know your peace.**

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,

**that all may know your love.**

Comfort the sick and dying,

**that all may know your mercy.**

Guide our leaders in the way of truth,

**that all may know your justice.**

Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,

**that all may have faith in you.**

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:

**Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.**

**My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.**

**I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that**

**my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a**

**strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable**

**to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen**

**my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure**

**of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to**

**be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright.**

**With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the**

**fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with**

**you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.**

**Amen.**

(*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 87)

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave 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.**

**BLESSING**

The God of peace,

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep,

make you complete in everything good

so that you may do God’s will,

through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW 759**



**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**