**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Second Sunday in Lent, March 5, 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“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803**



**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.

**O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a**

A reading from Genesis.

1The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 4aSo Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 121**

  1I lift up my eyes **|** to the hills;
  from where is my **|** help to come?
 2**My help comes | from the Lord,**
  **the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
 3The Lord will not let your **|** foot be moved
  nor will the one who watches over you **|** fall asleep.
 4**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**
  **will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**
 5the Lord watches **|** over you;
  the Lord is your shade at **|** your right hand;
 6**the sun will not strike | you by day,**
  **nor the | moon by night.**
 7The Lord will preserve you **|** from all evil
  and will **|** keep your life.
 8**The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**
  **from this time forth for- | evermore.**

**Second Reading**   **Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

A reading from Romans.

1What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
 13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel** **John 3:1-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?
 11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
 16“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
 17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**children’s SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “What Wondrous Love Is This” ELW 666**



**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.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. We pray especially for St. John’s Lutheran Church in Baroda and Rev. Kenneth Babcock. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine, Turkey, and Syria. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. 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**

**“Break Now the Bread of Life” ELW 515**



**“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 “Lift high the Cross” ELW 660**



**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 Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Kole Hokanson**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers**

 **Trustee: Jerry Engle**

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

**Safety Person: Ken Heise**

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, March 8
* Soup Supper, 6 PM Wednesday, March 8
* Lenten Service, 7 PM Wednesday, March 8 Theme: The faith of Abraham and Sarah
* Women’s coffee fellowship at C & R’s, 9AM, Thursday, March 9

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Women’s Spring Conference** meeting is Saturday April 22, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; with registration & snacks from 9:30 to 10:00. It will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 Westnedge Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008.The cost is $10.00. There will also be fellowship opportunities, Bible study, and a worship service. Please Contact Linda Ward 269-344-8684 by  April 15, 2023 to reserve your place. You may pay at the door when you arrive.
* **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 potluck lunch following the meeting with tableware and drinks provided.
* **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!
* **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