**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024**

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



**PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL** (please stand) **Mark 11:1-11**

Jesus enters Jerusalem:

1When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. 7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
 "Hosanna!
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
 10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
 Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
11Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” HYMN # 344**



**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*.

Holy God,

**We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen**.

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### 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*)

**Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

(Be seated)

**First Reading  Isaiah 50:4-9a**

A reading from Isaiah.

 4The Lord God has given me
  the tongue of a teacher,
 that I may know how to sustain
  the weary with a word.
 Morning by morning he wakens—
  wakens my ear
  to listen as those who are taught.
 5The Lord God has opened my ear,
  and I was not rebellious,
  I did not turn backward.
 6I gave my back to those who struck me,
  and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
 I did not hide my face
  from insult and spitting.

 7The Lord God helps me;
  therefore I have not been disgraced;
 therefore I have set my face like flint,
  and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
  8he who vindicates me is near.
 Who will contend with me?
  Let us stand up together.
 Who are my adversaries?
  Let them confront me.
 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me;
  who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 31:9-16

 9Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I **|** am in trouble;
  my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat **|** and my belly.
 10**For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;**
  **my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are consumed.**
 11I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to **|** my acquaintances;
  when they see me in the street **|** they avoid me.
 12**Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;**
  **I am as useless as a | broken pot.**
 13For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is **|** all around;
  they put their heads together against me; they plot to **|** take my life.
 14**But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O Lord.**
  **I have said, “You | are my God.**
 15My times are **|** in your hand;
  rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who **|** persecute me.
 16**Let your face shine up- | on your servant;**
  **save me in your | steadfast love.”**

**Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11**

A reading from Philippians.

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
 6who, though he was in the form of God,
  did not regard equality with God
  as something to be exploited,
 7but emptied himself,
  taking the form of a slave,
  being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
  8he humbled himself
  and became obedient to the point of death—
  even death on a cross.

 9Therefore God also highly exalted him
  and gave him the name
  that is above every name,
 10so that at the name of Jesus
  every knee should bend,
  in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 11and every tongue should confess
  that Jesus Christ is Lord,
  to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Lenten Acclamation** (please stand)





**Gospel  Mark 15:1-47**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

 15:1As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.” 3Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.” 5But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

 6Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” 10For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” 13They shouted back, “Crucify him!” 14Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” 15So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

 16Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. 17And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. 18And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” 19They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. 20After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

 21They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. 22Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). 23And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. 24And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.
 25It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” 27And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. 29Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30save yourself, and come down from the cross!” 31In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

 33When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 34At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” 35When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” 36And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” 37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”
 40There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

 42When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 43Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. 45When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. 46Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. 47Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

**Sermon  Pastor Jim Morgan**

**Hymn of the Day“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” HYMN # 352**



**CREED**

Joining with church in all times and places, let us affirm our faith.

**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

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ’s suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. We pray especially for Trinity Lutheran Church in Millersburg and Rev. Mary Hughes. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great**.

Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Give energy and joy to our pastor/s, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & OFFERING SONG**

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

**Offering Prayer**

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**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.**

**PREFACE** (*Pastor)*

**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**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**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**

**“Were You There” HYMN # 353**



**“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” HYMN # 337**



**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen**.

**BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Go to Dark Gethsemane” HYMN # 347**



**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Presider: Pastor Jim Morgan Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Lexie Griffin Safety Person:**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers Trustee: Martha Yoder**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and especially **Trinity Lutheran Church in Millersburg, Rev. Mary Hughes**

Prayers for our friends, for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.



**ONLINE GIVING**

Zion has received a QR code to facilitate online giving. If you are interested in donating online instead of bringing your donation to church, simply scan the QR code and it will direct you to the appropriate site. The code is on our website as well.

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, March 27
* **Newsletter deadline, 8 PM Wednesday, March 27**
* Good Friday Community Service, 1 PM Friday, March 29 at Central United Methodist in Lake Odessa
* Community Easter Egg hunt, 10:30 AM, Saturday, March 30, Lake Odessa
* Easter Breakfast, 9:15 AM, Sunday, March 31 at Zion
* Easter Egg Hunt, after service, Sunday, March 31 at Zion

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Door Locking Policy:** Our door locking policy relies on having a volunteer(s) each Sunday to serve as the Safety Person of the Day. On Sundays where no one has volunteered, if someone arrives at church and is willing to be the Safety Person of the Day, we will follow the door locking policy. If no one steps forward to serve as the Safety Person of the Day, the doors will not be locked as there will be no one to monitor the church cell phone and let late arrivals into the church. Please consider volunteering for this important duty
* **Easter Morning Breakfast:** We are having a breakfast on Easter morning. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for food and how many will be attending.
* **Easter Egg Hunt:** Zion will host an Easter Egg Hunt following service on Easter morning. Please consider donating small pieces of candy and coins for the eggs by March 24. Non-chocolate candy or gum are also a hit with the kits. Please provide items small enough to fit in the eggs. A box will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your kids, grandkids, and any other kiddos to our Easter Egg Hunt!
* **Church Musician Opening**: We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month The musician would play liturgy and hymns for our Sunday worship services. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in sharing their musical gifts with Zion, please contact Buffy Meyers. It is a paid position.
* **Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee continues to meet and research candidates from the synod. Please pray for wisdom and patience for the Call Committee and the congregation.