**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**

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



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

**Gathering Song“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” HYMN # 365**



### 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, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**First Reading  Acts 10:34-43**

A reading from Acts .

34Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 14-24

1Give thanks to the Lord, for the **|** Lord is good;  
  God’s mercy en- **|** dures forever.  
 2**Let Israel | now declare,**  
  **“God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”**  
 14The Lord is my strength **|** and my song,  
  and has become **|** my salvation.  
 15**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:**  
  **“The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!**  
 16The right hand of the Lord **|** is exalted!  
  The right hand of the **|** Lord acts valiantly!”  
 17**I shall not | die, but live,**  
  **and declare the works | of the Lord.**   
 18The Lord indeed pun- **|** ished me sorely,  
  but did not hand me o- **|** ver to death.  
 19**Open for me the | gates of righteousness;**  
  **I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.**  
 20“This is the gate **|** of the Lord;  
  here the righ- **|** teous may enter.”  
 21**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me**  
  **and you have become | my salvation.**   
 22The stone that the build- **|** ers rejected  
  has become the chief **|** cornerstone.  
 23**By the Lord has | this been done;**  
  **it is marvelous | in our eyes.**  
 24This is the day that the **|** Lord has made;  
  let us rejoice and be **|** glad in it.

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

1Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, 2through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.  
 3For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, 4and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, 5and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. 7Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL Acclamation**



**Gospel  John 20:1-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.  
  
 11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

**Sermon  Pastor Frank Rothfuss**

**Hymn of the Day“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” HYMN # 367**



**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.*

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ’s love in the world. We pray especially for Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant and Rev. Dana Hendershot. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. We pray especially for Jeff Engle, the family of Kurt Southgate, Phil Brodbeck, the family of Gene Beyer, Jayne Flanigan, Don Griffin, Chris Bush, Arlene Forman, Chloe Makley, Erik Anderson, Janine Kaufman, Cort Zylstra, Chris and Charles Farlee and for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death. Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**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**

**“I Know that My Redeemer Lives” HYMN # 619**



**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 “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!” HYMN # 382**



**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 Frank Rothfuss Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Kole Hokanson Safety Person:**

**Elder: Paul Meade Trustee: Tom Krikke**

**Offering Counters: Paul Meade & Mary Makely**

**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 **Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, Rev. Dana Hendershot**

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 Jeff Engle, the family of Kurt Southgate, Phil Brodbeck, the family of Gene Beyer, Jayne Flanigan, Don Griffin, Chris Bush, Arlene Forman, Chloe Makley, Erik Anderson, Janine Kaufman, Cort Zylstra, Chris and Charles Farlee and 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.

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**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:**

* Egg Hunt today after service
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, April 3

**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
* **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.