**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Volunteer Recognition Sunday**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024**

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



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENSS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant. Renew your creation.**

**Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:

The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God’s beloved.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Gather Us In” HYMN # 532**



### 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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Be seated)

**First Reading  Acts 4:5-12**

A reading from Acts.

5The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, 10let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. 11This Jesus is   
 ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
  it has become the cornerstone.’  
12There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM Psalm 23

1The Lord **|** is my shepherd;  
  I shall not **|** be in want.  
 2**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**  
  **and leads me be- | side still waters.**  
 3You restore my **|** soul, O Lord,  
  and guide me along right pathways **|** for your name’s sake.  
 4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**  
  **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**   
 5You prepare a table before me in the presence **|** of my enemies;  
  you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is **|** running over.  
 6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**  
  **and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

**Second Reading 1 John 3:16-24**

A reading from 1 John.

16We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?  
 18Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.  
 23And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. 24All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL Acclamation**



**Gospel  John 10:11-18**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 11“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

**Sermon  Pastor Mike Kemper**

**Hymn of the Day“Have No Fear Little Flock” HYMN # 764**

A sheet music with text and notes

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**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.

### VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Exhortation:

P. We are truly blessed by God and enriched in our fellowship by the many people of this congregation who volunteer their time and their talent in small and large ways for the benefit of this church and for the advancement of the gospel of Christ in this place. St. Paul tells us that there are varieties of gifts and varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good. There is no insignificant work that is done among us. All efforts -- from maintaining our property to cleaning the church to leadership to visiting the sick to praying for one another and for our ministry -- all are important efforts by which we are mutually blessed and by which our ministry prospers.

    At the same time, St. Paul teaches us to give thanks always to God through Christ in whom he has given us every blessing, including the blessing of one another. It is therefore appropriate on this day that we should recognize the work that is done by so many faithful and dedicated people, giving thanks to one another and to Almighty God for making the Spirit manifest among us in such a variety of ways.

**Litany of Thanksgiving for Workers in the Church:**

A. Let us pray. Almighty God, you have called us into fellowship as the Church of Jesus Christ in this place, and you have blessed us and enriched our lives through your Holy Word and Sacraments. You strengthen us and inspire us with your Holy Spirit to live lives of mutual love and service in the world. For all this, and, above all, for the gift of your Son and our salvation, we give our heartfelt thanks and praise.

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For those who lead and those who follow; for officers and councils and committees and boards:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For ushers and greeters, for assisting ministers and readers, for acolytes and servers, for musicians and choirs:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For prophets and seers, for teachers and preachers, for those who visit and for those who call:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For cleaners and dusters, for maintainers and fixers, for those who cook and those who eat:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For administrators and helpers, for counters and record keepers, for bulletin folders and envelope stuffers:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For those who give and those who pray, for those who plan and those who guide; for those with wisdom and those with inspiration:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For youth workers and youth, for parents and grandparents, for loving sisters and brothers in Christ:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. For our past and for our future, for the many ways that we embody Christ for the needy in the world and in our community:

**C. We give you thanks, O Lord.**

A. Keep us ever close to your Word and Holy Sacraments, that we might find strength to endure to the end:

**C. We dedicate our lives to your service.**

A. Bind us to your love, and through that love, to one another, for the sake of the gospel:

**C. We dedicate our lives to your service.**

A. Make us cheerful givers and faithful workers for the kingdom of your Son:

**C. We dedicate our lives to your service.**

A. Make us one in the body of Christ that we may acknowledge with gratefulness the importance of all our members and all our gifts for the mission that you give us. We pray especially for Trinity Lutheran Church in New Era and Rev. Sarah Samuelson.

**C. We dedicate our lives to your service.**

A. Lift up the weak among us. Heal the sick. Relieve the distressed. Comfort the mourning. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. And for all those we name in our hearts before you. *Silent prayer.* Be our strong rock and a refuge to keep us safe.

**C. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

A. Bless our youth, and especially those who graduate this spring. In all ways show your favor in their lives that they may live in virtue and faith and enrich the world by your calling.

**C. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

P. Holy God, Blessed Lord, we thank you for all the good people of faith that you have raised up among us for the work of the gospel. Multiply our gifts by your Holy Spirit. Be in our hands and our minds and our words that we might bring your love to the world. And prosper our work to the glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen**

P. God has made you one people through your baptism into Christ. Through your brothers and sisters, you know his peace and love. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

### 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**

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

**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**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God’s table.

**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**

**“One Bread, One Body” HYMN # 496**



**“Come to the Table” HYMN # 481**



**TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen**.

**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “God Be with You Till We Meet Again” HYMN # 536**

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**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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

**Presider: Pastor Mike Kemper Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Levi Griffin Safety Person:**

**Elder: Naomi Wilson Trustee: Tom Krikke**

**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 New Era, and Rev. Sarah Samuelson**

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.

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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:**

* Coffee fellowship today after service for Volunteer recognition!
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, April 24
* Newsletter deadline, 8 PM Wednesday, April 24

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Volunteer Recognition Sunday:** A special recognition for all our volunteers will be held on April 21st. Please plan to attend this important day to celebrate and appreciate all the work that is done to keep our church and ministries going. There will be a special time during worship to commemorate the work and contributions of everyone who contributes our church life at Zion. There will be appreciation gifts for all volunteers and a special coffee fellowship to honor everyone! Please plan to join this very special celebration!
* **Special Offering Designations:** The first quarter financial reports are being distributed and include a sticker with the special offering designations for you to affix to your offering envelop box. There are extra stickers in the narthex for those who do not use envelopes. The special offering designations are: Lent: World Hunger. Thanksgiving: Lakewood Ministerial Association. Advent: Manna’s Market. Christmas: Lakewood Community Council.
* **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.