



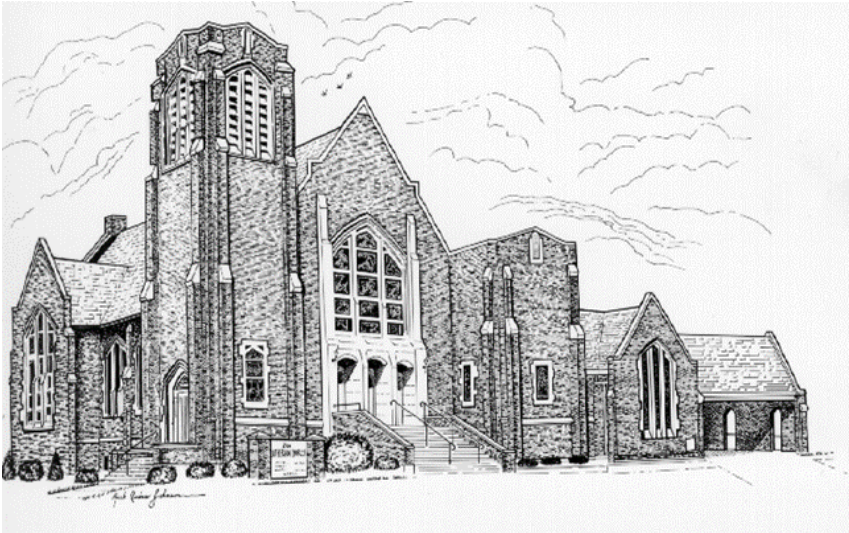
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Welcome to our members, guests, and visitors:

We welcome you in the name of Jesus, our Savior and pray He blesses your worship this day. Worship with us again and grow in your relationship with Jesus as your Savior. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to speak to an elder about becoming a part of Zion's church family. Have a good day in the Lord!

Zion Lutheran Church strives to be a Christ-centered caring congregation, prayerfully and faithfully teaching, preaching, and sharing the true Word of God in a joyful manner.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

+ In Preparation for Worship +



We live life at such a hectic pace that it's hard to slow down and, as our heavenly Father declares: ***"be still and know that I am God"*** (Psalm 46:10). Here are a few prayers that you may find of use to help you do just that as we gather for worship.

Before Worship: O God, the Father of our Savior Jesus Christ, Ruler of all things, before You stand thousands and thousands, and ten thousand angels and archangels. Sanctify, O Lord, our souls and bodies and spirits. Search our consciences, and cast out of us all that is contrary to Your holy will. And grant us to call upon You, our holy God and Father who is in heaven. Amen.

Liturgy of St. James (c. 300's)

Prayer for the Day: Dear God, how shall I, a poor and offensive person, receive such great honor to think that my soul is the bride of God, and the Son of God its bridegroom? The eternal Majesty has lowered itself to come into my poor flesh and blood and actually unite Himself with me. This is an honor not even bestowed on the angels in heaven. From head to foot I am full of pollution, corruption, leprosy, sin, and offense before God. How can I be considered His beloved, and be one in body with the high, eternal, glorious Majesty? Since You want it so, praise and thanks be unto You in eternity. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The Service of Prayer and Preaching

PRELUDE

WORDS OF GREETING

OPENING HYMN

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LSB 904



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P What is Confession?

C Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P What sins should we confess?

C Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

(Taken from The Small Catechism: Confession, LSB p.326)

- P** In order to fulfill God's will, I invite you to make your confession, so that I may pronounce forgiveness.
- C** **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.**
- P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?
- C** **Yes.**
- P** Let it be done for you as you believe. And I, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

(Adapted from *Individual Confession & Absolution*, LSB p.292)

OPENING VERSICLES

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** *Psalms 118:24*
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalms 113:3*
- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
- C** **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
- P** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,
- C** **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- P** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
- C** **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** **Your Word is truth.** *Psalms 84:10*
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.** *Psalms 113:3*
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

Isaiah 12:2b-6

Refrain

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

With joy will you draw wa - ter from the
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.
Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done
glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the
earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -
hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the
Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

P ¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the

servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

P ⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

P ¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ...

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” ...

³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said,

“Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Psalm 119:89; Psalm 26:8; Luke 11:28

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.
P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.

FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

TEN COMMANDMENTS

C You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

SERMON HYMN

Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

LSB 914



1 Light of Light, O Sole - Be - got - ten Ra - diance of the
2 Word e - ter - nal, through Your be - ing God cre - at - ed
3 Still Your brood - ing Spir - it hov - ers O - ver cha - os,
4 Come, Lord Je - sus, by Your Spir - it In our hearts Your



Fa - ther's face, Word made flesh, who lived a - mong us
all we see, When the emp - ty spac - es ech - oed
dark and deep, Call - ing out with in - vi - ta - tion:
work be - gin, Bring the heal - ing res - to - ra - tion



Full of truth and full of grace, Shine up - on our
With the Fa - ther's "Let there be . . ." Light and life burst
"Rise, a - wak - en from your sleep; Christ the Lord will
Of Your im - age lost by sin; From Your full - ness



hu - man dark - ness; Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
from the glo - rious Pow - er of Your maj - es - ty!
shine up - on you And from death your soul shall keep."
all re - ceiv - ing Grace on grace, new life with - in!

SERMON

Shining Christ in Dark Places

Ephesians 5:8-14

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

MORNING PRAYER

(Martin Luther from *The Small Catechism: Daily Prayers*, LSB p.327)

- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**



1 Je - sus sat with His dis - ci - ples On a
 2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the
 3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing

moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo - ple
 earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be
 peace where there is strife. Bless - ed are the per - se -

gath - ered, He be - gan to teach and say:
 ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled.
 cut - ed, Who for righ - teous - ness lose life;

"Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, Heav - en's
 Yes, the mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy
 Their re - ward is great in heav - en, In the

king - dom they will share. Bless-ed are the sad and
 will to them be shown. And the pure in heart are
 king - dom up a - bove— So be glad to share My

mourn - ing, Joy and com - fort will be theirs.
 bless - ed, They have eyes for God a - lone.
 suf - f'ring And re - joice to know My love."

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 103:1

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* **LSB 411**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Right - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.



Refrain
 In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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