

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church's Online or At Home Worship!

March 13, 2022


To attend our weekly Sunday service via Zoom, please use the following link each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>, Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#.

Our service is also available for viewing on Zion's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbCe2z7bIPvxp621A>

Announcements:

Snail Mail: Please let Sara know if you have returned to regular worship services in-person and no longer need to receive your bulletin via snail mail. The information is identical.

Zion's wish list for Advent 2022: Some packs of ornament hangers, and six battery operated  candles, all the same size. If you can donate any of these items, please let the church office know.

Sunday, March 27, 2022, 12:00noon: Faith, Sexism and Justice, A Call to Action. Women from the three area Lutheran congregations will gather in person at Zion for a brown bag lunch and program around the ELCA social statement, Faith, Sexism and Justice, A Call to Action, adopted at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Rev. Anita Mohr will facilitate our discussion on this social statement that relies on the Gospel promise of abundance, justice, and new creation in Christ to name the ways the sins of patriarchy and sexism harm all people, particularly women and girls, whatever their age or racial or gender identity. Please pick up a copy of the Social Statement on the left-hand side of the table in the narthex. *Please see the signup sheet in the narthex.*

Session Two of the Women's Bible Study: *Let Us Pray*, will be held Tuesday, March 29 at 7:00pm via Zoom. Printed copies of the Lesson are available at church. Watch for the Zoom link coming later this month.

Booklets and devotionals for Lent: Help yourself to the wonderful array of Lenten materials available on the table in the narthex.

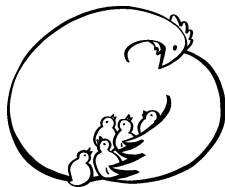
Lutheran Disaster Response: works directly with churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Services, to provide humanitarian relief to Ukrainians fleeing their homeland following last week's attack from Russia. Through these efforts, refugees receive immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water, and hygiene kits. Your gifts will support Ukrainians. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Checks or money orders can be sent to:

Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116. Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line. Give by phone at 800-638-3522 (Mon.-Fri. 8-5 CT)

Spring forward: A friendly reminder to set your old school clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!

Zion Lutheran Church

2 Lent



WELCOME TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S AT HOME OR ONLINE SERVICE!

PRELUDE: *Prayer*, by Ellen Jane Lorenz Kelli Watson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.** Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. **Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Around You, O Lord Jesus, vs. 1 & 3 Hymn #468* Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Around you, O Lord Jesus, your own you gather still to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill. You say to us so lovingly, "Take, eat! This is my body! Take, drink! This is my blood!"

Vs. 3 We are your own forever; until our final breath we will be true and never in joy, in grief, in death depart from you, for you are still among your people dwelling, as you have said you will.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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. Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE WORD

First Reading: *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Bible Pg. 20*

Psalm 27 *(read responsively)*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

Subject me not to the will of my foes, for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.

This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1 *Bible Pg. 1829*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Gospel: *Gospel: Luke 13:31-35 Bible Pg. 1621*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *-Pastor Rick Klafehn*

The images of refugees leaving Ukraine are heartbreaking and leave both reporter and viewer speechless. Little children wrapped in protective mothers' arms, while clutching their own stuffed animal, the only piece of childhood and their home they were able to bring. Numb, shell-shocked, weary mothers holding tightly to their children's hands while they walk from trains, buses, or their abandoned cars to border check-in stations, to be asked where they want to go, when there is no place they'd rather be other than their own home, in their own country free of invasion and war, their city at peace. Older teenage sons and daughters walking bravely beside these mothers, appearing, as only teens can, to be strong, reassuring, and comforting for their mom and younger siblings, while their mother has no idea what lies ahead, where they will eat or sleep, seeking only to be where her children safely can live and prosper, even as deep inside she is anxious and afraid, for them, her homeland, and most of all her children's beloved dad, who is left behind to protect their homeland.

In the midst of an evil, unjust, and unprovoked war, these mothers are signs of God and God's saving presence, God's protecting, providing, motherly love. We see with our own eyes what Jesus himself saw, as he sighed with sadness and compared God to a mother hen.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

Indeed, God seeks to gather all humankind under God's wings, in God's protective embrace, safe from harm in God's just and merciful realm. But in this world invaded and occupied by enemy powers of sin and death and evil, that does not always happen.

Jesus himself has enemies and reason to fear for his life. Some Pharisees warn Jesus, "Get away. Herod wants to kill you." Some Pharisees were hostile to Jesus; others may have sought to protect him. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He visited Jesus at night and helped bury him. The pharisee Saul became the great missionary Paul. Pharisees were morally strict, and may have opposed and feared Herod, especially after Herod beheaded John. Herod was Rome's puppet ruler. Perhaps some Pharisees feared Rome thought Jesus a threat, and on Rome's behalf Herod would take violent action to put down rebellion.

However, Jesus would not be swayed from his heavenly mission. Jesus would not be guided by fear or change course on the basis of enemies. Jesus responds he has been doing God's good work, casting out demons and healing, and he must be on his way, and complete his purpose, even if it means he will die.

And that is true for us, too. Let not fears or anxieties take us away from doing God's good, living our values, or worshipping God. We cannot control what others do or say, but we don't have to let them alter our course. Trust God's saving love. Walk the path God put us on. Do the good we believe God calls us to do. Turn to and depend on one another to stay faithful on our journey.

That is the same encouragement Paul gives Christians in Corinth. Don't let God's enemies lead you astray. Live not for mere earthly indulgence and gain. We are citizens of heaven, from where the Savior, Jesus, is coming, to make all things in glory new. "My beloved brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord."

Psalm 27 itself is a timely and poignant prayer to stand firm with faith in God. When evildoers, my foes, and my enemies, close in against me, though an army encamp against me, and war rise up against me, one thing I ask, one thing I seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord. For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, raise me high upon a rock.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in. This I believe, that I will see God's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord!

Jesus' lament today is not the first time Scripture uses motherly images for God. The Hebrew Scriptures describe God as a protective mother eagle (Dt 32.10-11), a fierce mother bear (Hos 13.8), and a mother giving birth (Is 42.14) and breast-feeding her child (Is 49.15). In Isaiah 66.13 God says, As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Jesus not only compares God to a waiting father, longing for his lost younger son to return home. Jesus also compares God to the determined, diligent housewife who turns over everything in her home to find a lost coin. So is God and God's love for us.

And how important it is to have these motherly images for God. For those raised in homes with fathers who were hurtful, abusive, punishing, or simply absent, trusting and calling on God as a loving father may be simply too much of a spiritual stretch. It may be a mother's love, that is their experience of the unconditional, accepting, protecting, providing, saving love of God.

Our call as children of God, welcomed into God's embrace, is to extend God's protective, loving embrace to all. Support of refugees and immigrants is one way. Support for youth cruelly rejected and abandoned by parents because of their sexuality or gender is another, legal advocacy and political support on their behalf, as well as charitable. Let every child, and we are all children at heart no matter our age, know God's accepting, welcoming, unconditional love.

Human sin, disobedience, and failure do not change God's heart of mercy and love, for you or me or any of God's children. Jesus stays the course and pursues God's mission. Jesus continues his way to Jerusalem, to endure rejection, hate, and injustice. Jesus still goes to Jerusalem, not to give in, not to return evil for evil, but rather to return only good, only God's blessing, forgiveness, and peace, to gather us all under his arms spread out in love on the cross. It's the love we taste and feel when he takes us under God's wings and feeds us at God's table. Feel and taste and drink God's love, the body and blood of Christ given and shed for many, also for you. Amen.

Welcoming New Members to the Congregation

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation, *Joseph G. Schmidt and Mary Margaret Krokonis*.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith as we say "The Apostles' Creed".

C: **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.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

P: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister and brother in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

New Members: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these new members, Mary Margaret and Joseph*, in their life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

WELCOME

P: Let us welcome this *sister and brother* in Christ, *Mary Margaret and Joseph*, to this community of faith.

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

and proclaim the good news to all the world.

ANTHEM: Amazing Grace, by Jim Brickman -Kelli Watson

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, Lisa P., Christina, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, Oh God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

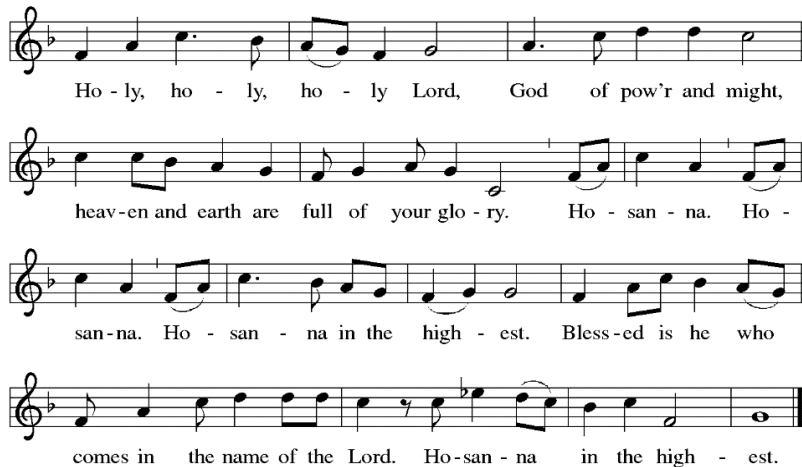
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MEAL

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *God Loved the World, vs. 1 & 5 Hymn #323 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.

Vs. 5 All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Morning Song -Kelli Watson*

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of Randy Richards, given by Laurel McCurdy.*