

Third Sunday In Lent

March 23rd 2025 9:30am



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Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. *Psalm 63:1*

Opening Song

I Will Follow

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow

Oh oh oh

All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in You alone

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow You

Yeah I will follow You yeah

**Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone**

**Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve**

**If this life I lose
I will follow You**

Yeah I will follow You yeah

**In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy unending joy
And I will follow**

**Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve**

**If this life I lose
I will follow You**

**Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve**

**If this life I lose
I will follow You**

**Yeah I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah
I will follow You yeah**

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We remember in Lent that because of sin entering the world, we are dust, and to dust we shall return. *Genesis 3*

People: But Jesus loved us so much that He has become the way for us, that we may not perish, but have eternal life.

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." *John 11*

People: God is good!

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Like spring after winter is the faithful renewal of Jesus' love.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: As David wrote in Psalm 32 "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

Pastor: Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join the Apostle John's words:

People: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (*Reflection for confession*)**

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His Name, He gives power to become children of God, and gives His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

I will sing aloud of Your steadfast love in the morning. For You have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. *Psalm 59:16*

To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great. *Acts 26:22*

Let us pray:

People: **Protector God, thank You for Your everlasting love. I can always count on You for help. You are a place of safety during times of distress. Forgive me for not always acknowledging Your strength and love. I will praise You daily for all You do. Empower me to testify of Your grace and mercy to all who will listen. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. ² So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. ³ Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. ⁴ So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶ when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night; ⁷ for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. ⁸ My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: **Return to the Lord, your God. For He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:1-9

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." ⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it

down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

People: 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.

Sermon Song

Trust In You

Letting go of every single dream
I lay each one down at Your feet
Every moment of my wondering
Never changes what You see

I've tried to win this war I confess
My hands are weary I need Your rest
Mighty warrior King of the fight
No matter what I face You're by my side

When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You
I will trust – I will trust
I will trust in You

Truth is You know what tomorrow brings
There's not a day ahead You have not seen
So in all things be my life and breath
I want what You want Lord and nothing less

**When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You
I will trust – I will trust
I will trust in You**

**You are my strength and comfort
You are my steady hand
You are my firm foundation
The Rock on which I stand
Your ways are always higher
Your plans are always good
There's no place where I'll go
You've not already stood**

**When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through**

**When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You
I will trust – I will trust
I will trust in You**

**I will trust – I will trust
I will trust in You**

Sermon/Watchword *Talk --- New, Knew, Next*

Pr Knoll

Seek The Lord While He May Be Found, Call Upon Him While He Is Near

Offering Song

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

**Why should I be discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion. My constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

**“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leads me but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.
I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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**

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:_(Sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while he is near.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing Song

Great Are You Lord

**You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

**You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
And great are You Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

**It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

**And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You Lord**

**And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You Lord**

**And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You Lord**

**It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only**

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Don and Doug Zarling from Gloria Coonen.

This year for Easter gifts will be accepted for the LCMC Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund. You may donate in honor or in memory of loved ones. Use the Mission Envelope for your gift and for the information you would like listed on Resurrection Sunday.

The Mission of the Month for March is the Step By Step Learning Center in Tanzania.

The March Newsletter is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

Bible Studies/Small Groups		
Monday	1:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday	6:00pm	G.I.F.T.
Worship at Zion		
Wednesday	7:00pm	Worship
Saturday	5:00pm	Chapel
Sunday	8:00am	Worship
	9:30am	G.I.F.T. Worship
		11:30am Swahili-English Worship

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Charter Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ
400 N Sawyer Street Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902 920-235-4430
www.zionoshkosh.com zionlutheran@ntd.net

