

First Sunday In Lent

February 22nd 2026 8:00am & 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. *Psalm 32:11*

Opening Song

Jesus Messiah

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all, the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

Ministry Spotlight

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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.
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.

People: 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."

Pastor: *Selah*

**People: I acknowledged my sin to You,
And my iniquity I have not hidden.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: *Selah* (Take time to confess and receive forgiveness)
For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You
In a time when You may be found;
Surely in a flood of great waters
They shall not come near them.

**People: You are my hiding place;
You shall preserve me from trouble;
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Pastor: *Selah*

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will guide you with My eye.
Do not be like the horse or like the mule,
Which have no understanding,

**People: Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle,
Else they will not come near you.
Many sorrows shall be to the wicked;
But those who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround them.**

**Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous;
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

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

The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. *Isaiah 29:19*

For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich. *1 Corinthians 8:9*

Let us pray:

People: Thank You, Lord, for becoming poor for my sake. You gave up all Your riches for me. Forgive me for being unwilling to share the bounty of Your goodness. Help me to let go of control. Help me to want others to experience what I have received from You. Amen.

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

The Psalm

Psalm 32

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ² Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah* ⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah* ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. ⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah* ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹ Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. ¹⁰ Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Second Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: Please rise as you are able 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

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
“He will command his angels concerning you,’

And

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus said to him,

“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Song

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love
My deep and boundless peace

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine
I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The might is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need His power is displayed

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won
And I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released
I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete
Still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

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Offering Song

Lord, From Your Hand

Lord, from Your hand I take the bread,
And from Your cup I drink the wine.
You serve forgiveness for my need.
You serve Your holy life for mine.

Now from Your lips I hear the words:
“This is My body and My blood.”
I see the mercy in Your eyes.
I see the pain. I see the love.

I see the cross. I see Your face.
My God, what agony and grief!
I see you suffer as you die.
I hear You pray. It is for me.

O Jesus, Savior, Holy God!
I live and breathe in Your embrace!
Lord, ev’ry moment draw my heart
To love and serve You face to face.

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.**

Preface, Proper Preface and Sanctus

Pastor: The Lord be with You.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**People_(sung): Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes, in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words Of Institution

Pastor: 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 in 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 in remembrance of Me."

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

Distribution Of Holy Communion

All who sincerely believe in the real presence of Christ in the Holy Communion – that the cup of blessing is the Communion of the blood of Christ and the bread is the Communion of the body of Christ, and sincerely believing that in receiving Him we have the forgiveness of our sins, salvation, and strength for the Christian life, come – partake of the Lord's Supper.

Communion Song

Lord, From Your Hand

**Lord, from Your hand I take the bread, and from Your cup I drink the wine.
You serve forgiveness for my need. You serve Your holy life for mine.**

**Now from Your lips I hear the words: "This is My body and My blood."
I see the mercy in Your eyes. I see the pain. I see the love.**

**I see the cross. I see Your face. My God, what agony and grief!
I see you suffer as you die. I hear You pray. It is for me.**

O Jesus, Savior, Holy God! I live and breathe in Your embrace!

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Lord, ev'ry moment draw my heart to love and serve You face to face.

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

People: **For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before
the face of all people;**

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

People: **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.

Shalom. Shalom

People: **Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, may the Light of the World Himself shine brighter and brighter upon and within you so that you might always walk in the abundant life that Jesus came to give.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing Song

God Is For Us

**We won't fear the battle - we won't fear the night
We will walk the Valley with You by our side
You will go before us - You will lead the way
We have found a refuge only You can save**

**Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us**

**Even when I stumble - even when I fall
Even when I turn back still Your love is sure
You will not abandon - You will not forsake
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace**

**Sing with joy now our God is for us
The Father's love is strong and mighty fortress
Raise your voice now no love is greater
Who can stand against us if our God is for us**

Neither height now depth can separate us

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Hell and death will not defeat us
He Who gave His Son to free us - holds me in His love

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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.

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 February is the Lutheran Church of South Sudan. You may also use Mission of the Month envelopes to support this mission.

The Jericho Road Ministries Owners Meeting is scheduled for today, after the 9:30am Worship Service.

The February 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 Study at Zion

Monday

1:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday

6:00pm G.I.F.T. Bible Studies

Worship at Zion

Saturday

5:00pm Chapel Prayer

Sunday

8:00am Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

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