

# Third Sunday in Lent

## March 23, 2025



*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

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# Welcome to Zion!

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***“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”***

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

## Get Connected at Zion

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The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

## Children in Worship

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Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Playground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

## Giving

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We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



## Livestreaming

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Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

# We Gather

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## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *[Silence for self-reflection.]* Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

WOV Hymn #696

"I've Just Come from the Fountain"

## APOSTOLIC 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.**

## KYRIE

ELW Hymn #157

*Kyrie eleison is Greek for "Lord, have mercy."*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# We Hear & Respond to God's Word

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## FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Cantor**                      **Assembly**

Come let us re - turn to the Lord, come, let us re - turn to the Lord;

**All**

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord, let us re-turn to the Lord.

## GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

*Before the reading:* The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:* The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn #726

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

## APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

## OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### We Feast at the Lord's Table

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## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

13 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high -

16

- est. Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na!

19

Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!

23

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

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 Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your

name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.  
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our  
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from  
e - vil, de - liv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the  
king-dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for  
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

## SHARING THE MEAL

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.  
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.*

## We Are Sent into the World

### BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

ELW Hymn #325, Verse 1

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.  
Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

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# Today's Readings

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that  
which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not  
satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is  
good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting  
covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the  
peoples,  
a leader and commander for the  
peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do  
not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall  
run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy  
One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

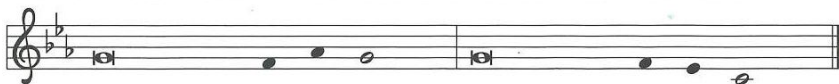
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may  
have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly  
pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the  
LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the  
earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8; tone 9



O God, you are my God;  
eager-<sup>1</sup>ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you,  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land  
where there<sup>1</sup> is no water.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore I have gazed upon you  
in your<sup>1</sup> holy place,  
that I might behold your power  
and your glory.

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love  
is better than<sup>1</sup> life itself;  
my lips shall<sup>1</sup> give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>So will I bless you as long<sup>1</sup> as I live  
and lift up my hands<sup>1</sup> in your name.

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content,  
as with the rich-<sup>1</sup>est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you  
with<sup>1</sup> joyful lips,

*continued*

<sup>6</sup>when I remember you up- <sup>1</sup> on my bed,  
and meditate on you  
in <sup>1</sup> the night watches.

<sup>7</sup>For you have <sup>1</sup> been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings  
I <sup>1</sup> will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>My whole being <sup>1</sup> clings to you;  
your right hand <sup>1</sup> holds me fast.

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in

sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## Gospel

## Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

TODAY'S READINGS March 23, 2025

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Next Sunday's Readings: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

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