

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH PEMBROKE
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
SUNDAY MARCH 23 2025
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING FOUR**

PRELUDE - SINGALONG LED BY MEN'S QUARTET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Wrap yourselves in the healing love of God!

P: We seek God's presence in our lives.

L: Know that God continually surrounds us with patience and persistence.

P: Even though we have not produced the "fruits" of hope that God seeks, yet God forgives and heals our weakness.

L: Rejoice! Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

P: We will turn our lives again to the Lord, to serve and seek God's presence.

AMEN.

CONFESSION AND 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 is kept for 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 SONG *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* (ELW 445)
hymnal**

GREETING (ELW p. 147)

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 p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



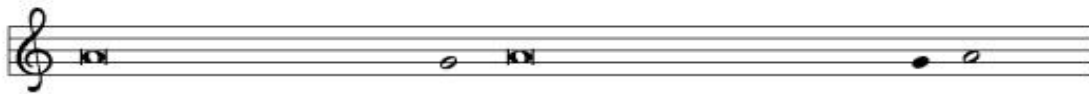
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)

Let us pray.

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.

MEN'S QUARTET 'Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us'

attr. to Dorothy Thrupp and William Bradbury

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

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

⁵ 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.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

⁷ 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.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly 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 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

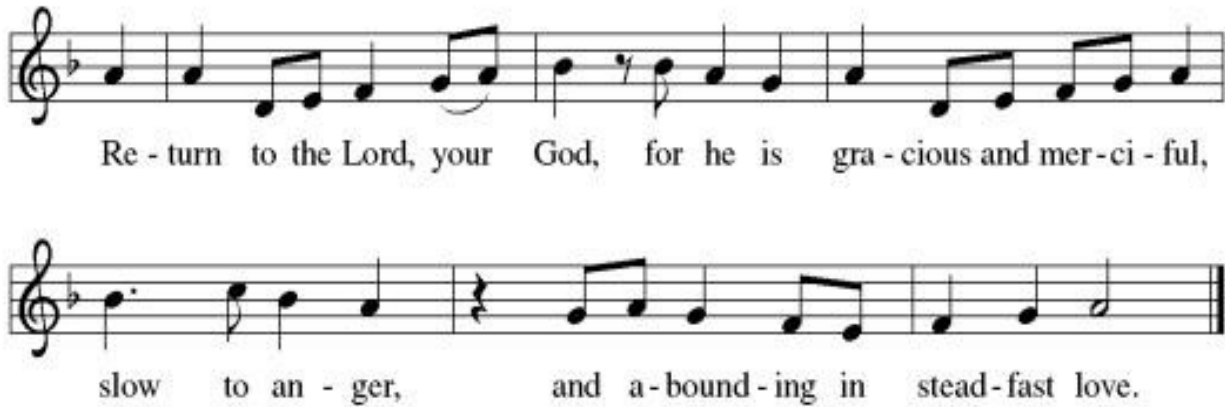
A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹ 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, 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, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ 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." 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 And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ 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. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ 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? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *As Rain from the Clouds* (ELW 508)

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.

Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.

We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.

Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.

We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.

Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.

We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Text © 1983, 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-728050.

THE NICENE CREED (ELW p. 104)

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially Jason, Martha, Ella, Rhonda, Heather, Anneliese, Joan, Judy, Larry, Garnet, Betty, Lily, Karl, Elva, Clarence, Eva, Barbara, Inge, Marcella, Patricia, Edie, Otilia, Kirk, Joan, David, Gwen, Don, Jeanette, James, Charlie*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* (ELW 467 vs. 1 and 3)

1 We place upon your table, Lord,
where you by grace have bid us dine,
these tokens of our daily work,
the food of life, the bread and wine.

3 Accept them, Lord; they come from you;
we take them humbly from your hand;
put these your gifts to higher use:
the holy meal that you command.

Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt. Text: Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)

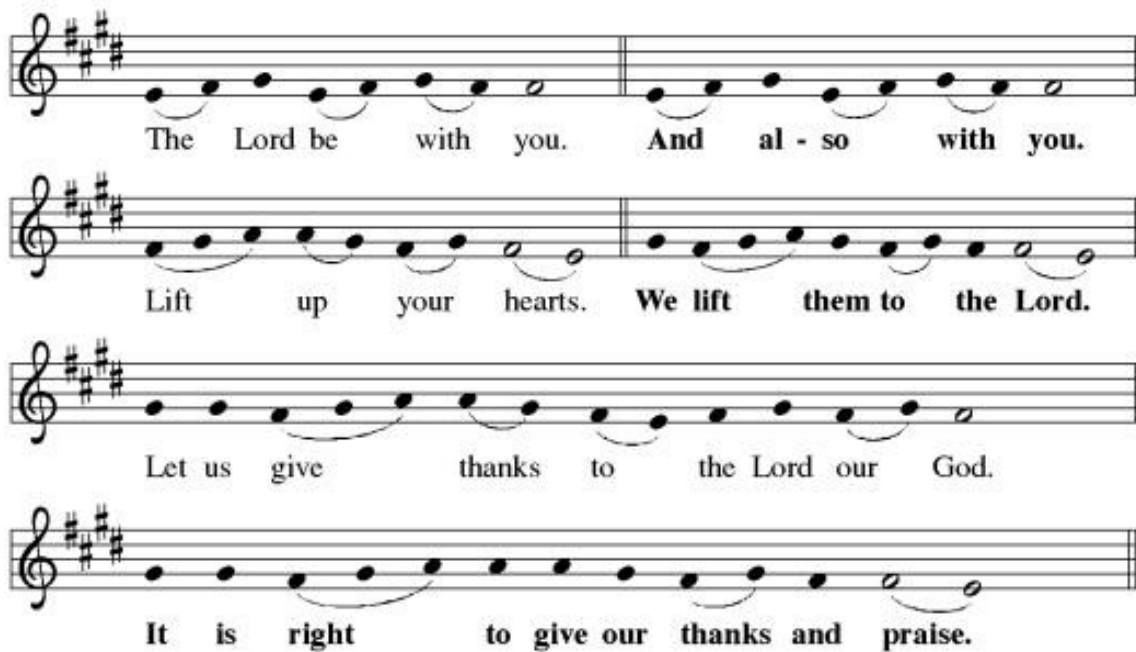
Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW P.152)

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

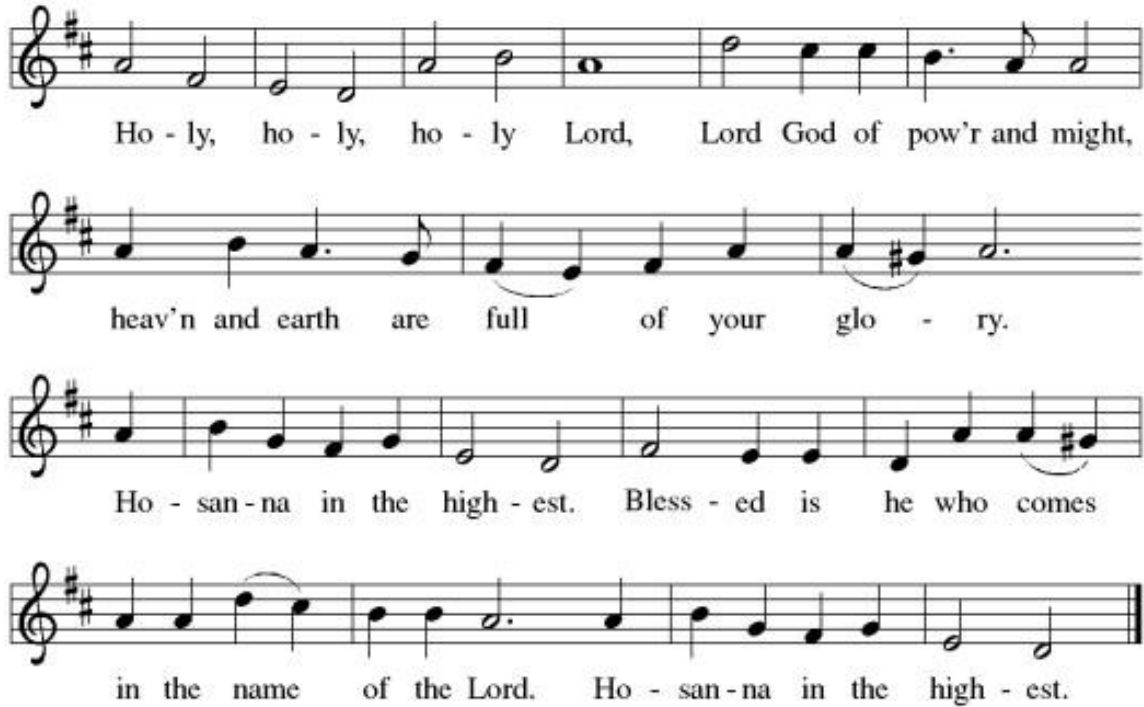
PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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 (ELW p. 153)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW P. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

***Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church* (ELW 321)**

1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here--the goal of all desire.

2 So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.

3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003. Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate and One License #A-728050.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (ELW 623)

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleansing me from its guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778. Text: Public Domain.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 155)

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. **Refrain**

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. **Refrain**

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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ATTENDANCE:

Sunday, March 16, 2025: 48, Living Stones: 31

Wednesday, March 19, 2025: 40

ZION ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: March 24–30, 2025

Monday:	8:30 am	Pickle Ball
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	7:00 pm	Pickle Ball
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Tuesday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	1:00 pm	Social Ministry
	6:30 pm	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Mixed Choir
Wednesday:	10:00 am	Morning Social
	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
	5:30 pm	Soup & Sandwich
	6:30 pm	Lenten Service
	7:30 pm	Men's Choir
Thursday:	9:30 am	Tai Chi
	7:00 pm	Music Healing Veterans
Friday:	1:00 pm	Exercise Class
Sunday:	10:00 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion

TODAY'S SCHEDULED WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Scott Schellenberger
Music Director:	Blaine Sack
Worship Assistant:	Ella Smith
Sexton:	Don Boldt
Projector Operator:	Rick Gerundin
Video Recorder:	Korbin Smith
Sound Operator:	Brian Smith
Counters:	Gerry Vandersleen, Kevin & Jean Rutz
Altar Care:	Kathy Godin
Ushers:	Kevin & Jean Rutz
Coffee Hour:	Denise & Barry Schizkoske

OFFERINGS – HOW CAN YOU LEAVE A DONATION?

- 1.) Place your gift in the OFFERING PLATES AT EITHER ENTRANCE to the of the church sanctuary.**
- 2.) You can also transfer a donation to the church by sending a gift via e-transfer to zionoffice@nrtco.net. Please be sure to leave an address for tax receipts.**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please pray for those who are ill, in hospital, or requested special prayers: Jason Godin, Martha Kodrzyński, Ella Lehman, Rhonda Mau, Heather Miller, Anneliese Trautrim, Joan Lehman, Judy and Larry Blais, Garnet Miller, Betty Kuehl, Lily Kubiseski, Karl Hausser, Elva & Clarence Gagne, Eva Hagenah, Barbara Schoof, Inge Latiok, Marcella Kuehl, Edie Brum, Otilia Saldana G, Kirk Weichenthal, Joan LaForce, David Brumm, Gwen Burchart, Don and Jeanette Nevile, James Dean, Charlie Merredew.

If you know of anyone in hospital, in need of a visit or are recently deceased, please inform the church 613 732-8792 or Pastor Scott 705 313-0333.

DONATIONS A donation has been made by Cheryl Sack to the property fund in thankfulness to God for a wonderful son, Blaine Sack, who is celebrating 30 years as a music director.

SOCIAL MINISTRY Will be meeting on **Tuesday March 25, 2025, at 1:00 pm**

MORNING SOCIAL Wednesday March 26th at 10:00 am.

SOUP & SANDWICH Wednesday March 26th at 5:30 pm.

SOUP & SANDWICH SIGN-UP SHEET There is a sign-up sheet posted by the kitchen for those that wish to bring soup and/or sandwiches to share for our Soup, Sandwich and Service Dinners on Wednesday nights.

LENTEN SERVICE Wednesday March 26th at 6:30 pm.

ETERNITY FOR TODAY April/May/June 2025 are now available for pickup.

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS We will have another table of knit and crochet items as part of our Spring Yard Sale this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed items at our last yard sale...it was a wonderful addition to our sale. If you would like to donate items of any sort (dishcloths, hats, scarves, etc.), it would be most appreciated. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen Gauthier or Susan Dupuis.

Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



Sunday March 23 2025

**Following worship
Please join us.**

Hosted by: Your Social Ministry Committee

Morning Social Gatherings



Are you looking to spend some time having coffee, tea and goodies while sharing conversation with others?

Wednesday March 26 2025 at 10:00 am

You need not be a member of Zion. Everyone is welcome.



perfect pairings
Soup and Sandwich Dinners
Wednesday nights during Lent
beginning March 12 2025
5:30pm.



Lenten Midweek Services
Wednesdays 6:30pm
from March 12 to April 16 2025.



EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday 10:00 am

Thursday April 17th – Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friday April 18th – Good Friday 10:00 am

Sunday April 20th – Easter 8:00 am and 10:00 am

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Scott Schellenberger & Rev. Sue Nevile

Cell: 705-313-0333 (Pr. Scott)

Cell: 905-441-3283 (Pr. Sue)

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