

The Parable of the
Barren Fig Tree
Luke 13:1-9



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

Worship Focus: In Spite of our sinfulness, God offers us salvation and deliverance.

This is the third Sunday in the season of Lent. The season of Lent leads the Church on a forty-day journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God calls to mankind: Return to the Lord! Even though the Church's Lenten worship is muted and quiet, the focus of the season is not Good Friday, but Easter! Sunday worship in the season of Lent is designed to be islands of refreshment in our Lenten walk. Here is refreshment for the Lenten journey: Your Savior has defeated the devil and his temptations for you. The promise comes by faith and is meant for all people. Though you were born in the blindness of sin, the light of the world shines upon you and lets you see. New life in the light of Christ leads you to selfless service until the day he makes good on his greatest promise – the resurrection. What can we say in response to love so great? Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

LITURGY: The Gathering Rite on Holy Baptism

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES – We request that you please turn off all devices during the church service. You may keep it on if you are emergency response personnel or if you have an emergency call you are anticipating. Thank you for your cooperation.

BATHROOMS – Bathrooms are located in the East foyer and in the school hallway off the west foyer. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

THE GATHERING RITE ON THE WORD



God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended for use not only when there is a baptism but may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings.

Baptism of Wyatt Lehmann

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy

Stanza 1

Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

P: I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C: **Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** *(John 3:5,6)*

P: Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *(Psalm 51:5)*

C: **But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.** *(1 Corinthians 6:11)*

Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy

Stanza 2

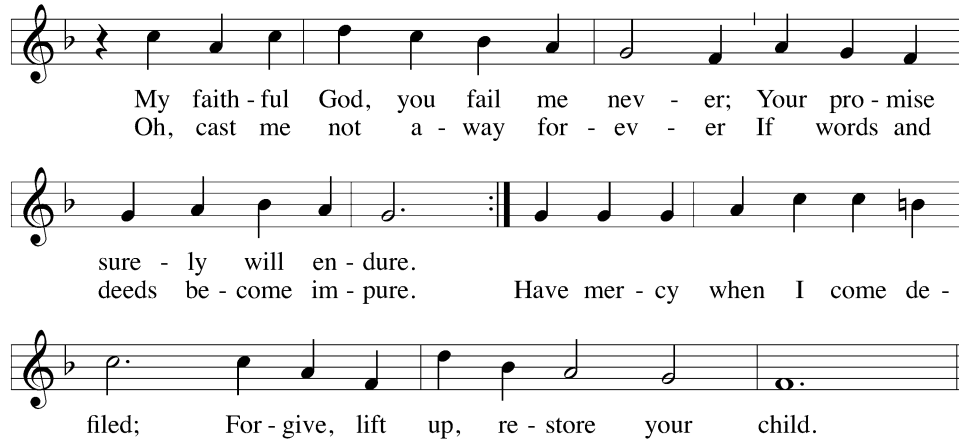
My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of
forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort
me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

P: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy

Stanza 3



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and
sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -
filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

P: Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (✠) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

The Baptism continues at the font.

Baptism of Wyatt Lehmann

Son of Mitchell and Kayla Lehmann

After the Baptism the following stanzas are sung:

Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy

Stanza 4



All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me
all, O Lord, from me.
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or
own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson:

Numbers 16:23-40

²³ The LORD spoke to Moses: ²⁴ “Tell the assembly, ‘Move away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram!’” ²⁵ So Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram. The elders of Israel followed him. ²⁶ He told the assembly, “Move back from the tents of these wicked men. Do not touch anything that belongs to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins!” ²⁷ So from every side, they moved away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrance to their tents with their wives, children, and little ones. ²⁸ Moses said, “This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that all this was not just my idea. ²⁹ If these men die a death like everyone else and if they suffer the same fate that everyone does, then the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰ But if the LORD creates something unheard of and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the grave, you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt.” ³¹ As soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground beneath them split open. ³² The earth opened its mouth and swallowed up everyone who was with Korah, along with their households and all their possessions. ³³ So they and everything that belonged to them went down alive into the grave. The earth closed up over them, and they disappeared from the midst of the assembly. ³⁴ Hearing their screams, all the Israelites who were around them fled, because they said, “The earth will swallow us up too!” ³⁵ Fire went out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred fifty men who offered the incense. ³⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses: ³⁷ “Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to remove the censers from the burning debris and scatter the fire far away, for the censers are holy. ³⁸ Make the censers belonging to those who sinned at the cost of their own lives into hammered sheets for plating the altar, because they presented them before the LORD, and the censers are holy. They will serve as a sign to the Israelites.” ³⁹ Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which had been presented by those who had been burned up by fire. They hammered them into plating for the altar ⁴⁰ as a reminder to the Israelites that no unauthorized person, who is not from the descendants of Aaron, should come near to burn incense before the LORD and become like Korah and his followers. Eleazar the priest did just as the LORD said to him through Moses. (EHV)

Refrain



Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Psalm tone



O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger*
or discipline me in your wrath.

For your arrows have pierced me,*
and your hand has come down upon me.

My guilt has overwhelmed me*
like a burden too heavy to bear.

Refrain

All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;*
my sighing is not hidden from you.

I wait for you, O LORD;*
you will answer, O Lord my God.

Come quickly to help me,*
O Lord my Savior.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Patricia Craig. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Psalm Tone: Paul Bunjes. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Second Lesson:**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, ²and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” ⁸And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. ⁹Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it. (EHV)

GOSPEL:**Luke 13:1-9**

13 At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²He answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? ³I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too.” ⁶He told them this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?’ ⁸But the gardener replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. ⁹If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.’” (EHV)

Hymn of the Day: *CW 302***“Lord, to You I Make Confession”**

302

Lord, to You I Make Confession



1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,
 3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n him -
 4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it



sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied
 I will seek your face. Though your child I dare
 self to res - cue me, Died to save me and
 in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -



trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.
 not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.
 re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.
 cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.



Led by you to see my er - rors,
 Do not for my sins for - sake me;
 Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish
 Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
 Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
 These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

Sermon Text and Theme: Luke 13:1-9

Why Would God Allow That?

Prayer of the Church

P: Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

C: We confess that without your love we are lost.

P: Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

C: Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

P: Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

C: By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

P: Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

C: Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936 © 1992 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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Tune: BLOTT EN DAG (10 9 10 9 D) Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882



Officials

Accompanist: Stefanie Sitzman

Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

CALL MEETING—Pastor Benjamin Kempfert has returned his call to be the Associate Pastor. A new joint call meeting is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 23rd at St. Paul's.

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR CALL MEETING: Mrs. Kristi Coffin has returned her call. A new call meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 6th.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: On Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m. please come to an Easter learning experience where you will walk in Jesus' footsteps from Palm Sunday to Easter to experience His Passion and deepen your faith. Everyone, both young and old are invited to come.

LENTEN SUPPER: You are invited to join us for a Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 26th from 5:30-6:30pm. The dinner will be Sloppy Joes, French Fries, and baked beans. Cost is a free-will donation.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA: On Sunday, April 13th from 2:00p.m.-4:00 p.m. There will be a mother/daughter tea. There will be fellowship, treats and tea. Please see the back table for more information.

KILLARNEY LUTHERAN CAMP: Killarney Lutheran Camp is very blessed to have the churches and people support them like they do. Zion Lutheran Church is one of the biggest supporters when it comes to Boosters. For the last 10 years, Zion has had 30 + boosters. Along with the regular boosters we now have 18 life time boosters, the most from any other congregations. We sincerely thank you for your continued support. Please stop by and see all the improvements that have and still are going on at the camp. May 23rd-26th is Memorial Day weekend. Plan on camping or come up Sunday for the Chicken Bar-b-que.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Lent #3 Worship Service
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
	12:30 p.m. Joint Call Meeting at St. Paul's
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
Wednesday	5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper – Sloppy Joe's
	7:00 p.m. Lent #3 Worship Service
Saturday	9:00 a.m. Journey to the Cross
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Lent #4 Worship Service
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

March Volunteers

	Feb. 26 & Mar. 2	Mar. 5 & 9	Mar. 12 & 16	Mar. 19 & 23	Mar. 26 & 30
Altar Guild			Liz Seibert		
Live Stream Helpers	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth	William Robinson	Miller Sordahl
Ushers	<p><u>Feb. 26</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Bryce Mueller Ray Palmatier</p> <p><u>March 2</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Bryce Mueller Ray Palmatier</p>	<p><u>Mar. 5</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p> <p><u>Mar. 9</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p>	<p><u>Mar. 12</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p> <p><u>Mar. 16</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p>	<p><u>Mar. 19</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p> <p><u>Mar. 23</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p>	<p><u>Mar. 19</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p> <p><u>Mar. 23</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p>
Communion Helpers	<p><u>Feb. 26</u> Alan Bober</p> <p><u>March 2</u> Mark Kipf Ray Palmatier</p>		<p><u>Mar. 12</u> Ken Vagt</p> <p><u>Mar. 16</u> Jake Burke Mark Kipf</p>		