



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

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: The powerful metaphor of light/seeing (faith) versus darkness/blindness (unbelief) guides our worship this day. Those to whom grace gives light and sight walk in the light of the Lord and know him as Savior. But those who remain by their own will in the darkness of sin remain as well in spiritual blindness, subject to judgement.

Liturgy: Service of the Word

CW pg. 38

OPENING HYMN: CW 221

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

OPENING OF SERVICE

221

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

P: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

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

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴I have been silent for a long time. I have kept still. I have restrained myself. But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream. I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will dry up mountains and hills. I will make all their grass wither. I will turn rivers into islands. I will dry up pools. ¹⁶I will lead the blind on a way they do not know. Along paths they do not know I will direct them. Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light and rough places into level ground. These are the things I will accomplish for them. I will not abandon them. ¹⁷They will be turned back and completely disgraced— those who trust in an idol, those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸You deaf ones, listen! You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see! ¹⁹Who is as blind as my servant? Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent? Who is as blind as my associate, as blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe. Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear. ²¹Because of his own righteousness, the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious. (EHV)



O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quickly, O LORD;
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

**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

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. ¹⁰ Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, ¹¹ and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. ¹⁴ Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14, 15)

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 343

“Christ Is the World’s Light”

REDEEMER

343

Christ Is the World’s Light



1 Christ is the world’s light, Christ and none oth - er;
 2 Christ is the world’s peace, Christ and none oth - er;
 3 Christ is the world’s life, Christ and none oth - er;
 4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
 No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
 Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
 Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
 Who else u - nites us, one with God the
 He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
 Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
 Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
 Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
 broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
 Used by permission.
 Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM (10 11 11 6) *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681.

9 As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. ⁴I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.” ⁶After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

¹³They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?” There was division among them, ¹⁷so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴They answered him, “You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?” And they threw him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” ³⁶“Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.” ³⁸Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.” (EHV)

THE GIFT OF SIGHT

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**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.**

Prayer of the Church

pg. 42

P: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

P: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

P: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

P: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

P: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.

HYMN: CW 460 (vs. 1-3)

“How Can I Thank You Lord”

COMMITMENT

460

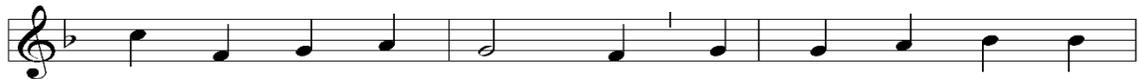
How Can I Thank You, Lord



1 How can I thank you, Lord, For all your lov - ing -
2 It is your work a - lone That I am now con -
3 Lord, you have raised me up To joy and ex - ul -
4 Grant that your Spir - it's help To me be al - ways
5 O Fa - ther, God of love, Now hear my sup - pli -



kind - ness, That you have pa - tient - ly Borne
vert - ed; O'er Sa - tan's work in me You
ta - tion And clear - ly shown the way That
giv - en Lest I should fall a - gain And
ca - tion; O Sav - ior, Son of God, Ac -



with me in my blind - ness! When dead in man - y
have your pow'r as - sert - ed. Your mer - cy and your
leads me to sal - va - tion. My sins are washed a -
lose the way to heav - en. Grant that he give me
cept my ad - o - ra - tion; O Ho - ly Spir - it,



sins And tres - pass - es I lay, I kin - dled,
grace That rise a - fresh each morn Have turned my
way; For this I thank you, Lord. Now with my
strength In my in - fir - mi - ty; May he re -
be My ev - er faith - ful guide That I may



ho - ly God, Your an - ger ev - 'ry day.
ston - y heart In - to a heart new - born.
heart and soul All - c - vil I ab - hor.
new my heart To serve you will - ing - ly.
serve you here And there with you a - bide.

Text: attr. David Denicke, 1603–80, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: O GOTT, DU FROMMER GOTT (II) (67 67 66 66) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN: CW 460 (vs. 4-5)

(Music on Previous Page)

“How Can I Thank You Lord”

4 Grant that your Spirit's help To me be always given
Lest I should fall again And lose the way to heaven.
Grant that he give me strength In my infirmity;
May he renew my heart To serve you willingly.

5 O Father, God of love, Now hear my supplication;
O Savior, Son of God, Accept my adoration;
O Holy Spirit, be My ever faithful guide
That I may serve you here And there with you abide.

✠ ✠ ✠

Officiants

Accompanist: Deanna Schneck

Liturgist: Pastor Ross Ulrich

Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Ross Ulrich: 734-244-4553; rwulrich@zionmonroe.org

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

Voters' Meeting Call Update:

At the January 29 Quarterly Voters' Meeting, the voters decided to gather more information before making a decision on calling a Senior Pastor upon Pastor Ulrich's retirement. **TODAY**, there will be a special Open Forum at 10:15am and Special Voters' Meeting at 11:30am on this topic.

PASTOR ULRICH RETIRING – Pastor Ulrich has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2023. The Board of Elders has recommendations for Zion in light of Pastor Ulrich's retirement.

EASTER LILIES: We would like to decorate our church again this year for Easter with lily plants in memory of or for blessings received from members of Zion. Suggested donation is \$12.50 per plant. The plants will be in church on Easter Sunday. **The deadline to order is Sunday, March 19.** Donation envelopes are in both foyers. Place your donation inside the envelope and put it in the office. Thank you in advance for decorating our church for Easter and remembering our loved ones and blessings received.

THE BOARD OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP: The Board of Service and Fellowship has made the following updates to the Marriage Retreat to be held on March 17-19. We are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling God pleasing learning opportunity. It is being held at the Faholo Christian Conference Center, 3000 Mt. Hope Road, Grass Lake, Michigan 49240. The facilitator is Pastor Randy Hunter. **At this time, we have 5 openings for couples to sign-up. Please contact Pastor Ulrich if you want to attend.**

THANK YOU: Zion CEA would like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated, attended, contributed and volunteered for the Zion CEA Auction. This year we raised the most money ever with a total of \$18, 466.50. The money will help fund many items that Zion School is needing in the next two years before our next auction. **THANK YOU AGAIN.**

MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA: SUNDAY, MARCH 26 FROM 2-4:00 P.M. Mothers, daughters, and all other ladies welcome to join us for entertainment, fellowship, treats and tea. Suggested donation \$5 per person. Please see either foyer for additional information and for envelopes to reserve your spot.

Easter Activities for the Family:

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS: Saturday, April 1st, from 10:00 a.m. – noon at Zion Lutheran Church. This is an interactive journey to walk the path that Jesus walked. It is a great learning experience. We need some great volunteers to make that *Journey* as meaningful as possible, and we're hoping that you will help. We still need help with supplies to make the stations more realistic and we also need help with volunteers. We will provide you with the training and resources you need to succeed as a *Journey* volunteer. There are descriptions for both in the back of the sanctuary. Please take time to pray for our *Journey to the Cross* and for all our volunteers. Thank you for considering this request and for praying about it.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Saturday, April 8, starting at 10:00 a.m., St. Paul's will host an Easter event for all families. The program will provide a pastor's devotion, songs, and movement, craft, brunch and coffee, and of course an outdoor Egg Hunt (weather permitting). For more information or to volunteer for this event, contact Pastor Nate Fager 734-790-1294.

HELPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Zion's Meal Train

*There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?"
The answer is usually to help them with a meal.*

Friends in Faith is starting a "Zion's Meal Train". The meal train will be open to all male and female members of the Congregation interested in providing meals for fellow members in need. We are organizing an opportunity to donate meals for situations including surgeries/recovery, unexpected hospital stays, loss, birth of a child, etc. We will be utilizing the official Meal Train website (www.MealTrain.com) to stay organized. When many friends provide support through a meal, Meal Train keeps schedules, as well as provides locations and dietary restrictions. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare an occasional meal as needed, please provide a phone and email address on the signup sheet in either foyer. Please contact Melissa Freiny with any questions at 734-652-1638.

FOOD PANTRY: The Zion Food Pantry at this time is being closed. We are no longer accepting food donations. With the future construction it has been determined at this time the collection of food is not prudent. If someone is in need please see either Pastor for needed assistance. We have an alternative program now available on a need basis.

PLAYGROUP AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: Come join parents and littles, children kindergarten or younger and their parents, to come have fun. They are meeting on Monday mornings from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Albain Rd. Join for snacks, play and Christian fellowship. Contact Chelsea Kowalski at 507-766-5679 for any questions.

NEW BIC STARTING – Pastor Ulrich is starting a new Bible Information Class on **Sunday, March 12** from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. There are eight lessons for 2 hours. If you are interested contact Pastor Ulrich (734) 735-3226. They will cover basic teachings of Christian doctrine. Upon completion of class, a student would be eligible to become a communicant member. The schedule is as follows:

March 12, BIC #1
March 19, BIC #2
March 26, BIC #3
April 2, BIC #4
NO CLASS – Easter April 9
April 16, BIC #5
April 23, BIC #6
NO CLASS – Voter Meeting April 30
May 7, BIC #7
May 14, BIC #8

If you are already a communicant member of Zion and would like to attend BIC to refresh your knowledge and understanding, you are welcome to attend. Again, please call Pastor Ulrich.

THANK YOU.

SPRING IS COMING WHICH MEANS ZION RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING:

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. We are happy to take gently used items for the sale but please hold onto them until the End of May. Zion School needs to use the gym for school activities and we don't have a lot of room to store items. Thank you in advance for your support.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME: Zion Annual Killarney Camp-out is scheduled for Friday- Sunday, August 4-6th. So on that note please read the following:

Dear Zion Members,

Think spring, think May 26th.(Memorial Day Week-end), think Killarney Lutheran Camp. It's getting time to start sitting at my table and collect Booster dues! Yearly dues are still only \$40.00 and the Lifetime membership is \$400.00.

Zion continues to be the top supporter of the camp!! We have 13 Lifetime Booster memberships, what a blessing.

This year, I'm having a contest with my son Dan, who now is a member at St. Stephen's in Adrian and their Rep for Killarney. We're going to see who can get the most Boosters. In 2022, Zion had 30 and we have had the most Boosters from any church, for the last five years.Thank you very much!

Please know that even if you are a Lifetime Booster, Killarney would appreciate any donation to the camp! Many projects are being planned to make improvements to the property, the camping area, cabins, and the manager's house.

I will start collecting the second week in February and the beginning of March.

God Bless,
Sherry Fuerstenberg
Killarney Booster Rep for Zion

COMING UP AT ZION

- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, NO Adult Bible Class
10:15 a.m. Open Forum
11:30 a.m. Special Voter’s Meeting
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. BIC #1
- Monday 10:30 a.m. MLS Children’s Theatre @ Zion School
- Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
1:30 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
5:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting
- Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Lenten Supper – Taco Bar
7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Service #4 (IC)
- Thursday 7:00 p.m. Church Council
- Friday Marriage Retreat
- Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)
10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. BIC #2

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

	March 1 & 5	March 12	March 15 & 19	March 26
ALTAR GUILD		Kathy	Vanisacker	
LIVE STREAM HELPERS	Steve Sordahl	Rob Krueger	Erich Freiny	Miller Sordahl
USHERS	<u>March 1</u> Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Jake Burke Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick <u>March 5</u> Russ Vitale Keith McBee Mark Kipf	<u>March 12</u> Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny	<u>March 15</u> Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny <u>March 19</u> Tony Affholter Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier Jeff Douglas	<u>Feb. 26</u> Joe Koch Dave Bengé Joe Schmeling
COMMUNION HELPERS	<u>March 1</u> Jeremy Robinson <u>March 5</u> Alan Bober		<u>March 15</u> Ken Vagt <u>March 19</u> Mark Kipf	

