

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024  
10 a.m. at *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

**Worship and Communion:** In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please fill out a yellow guest card and put it in the offering plate so we have a record of your visit. *Come back and worship with us each Sunday at 10 a.m.* Those worshipping today may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. This is Christ’s table, all are welcome, as Christ welcomes all.

**Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for food, fellowship and a brief congregational meeting.

**Other Information:** Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary; our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Vicar Lisa Rygiel at the church — 719-846-7785 or contact her via email: [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com). Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at [zionsluth.org](http://zionsluth.org).

## *~Gathering~*

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

The journey of Lent continues with a journey of sacrifice.

**We are called upon to give our lives to God.**

We are called upon to give of ourselves to others.

**Lord, help us to reach inward in confession and outward in service.**

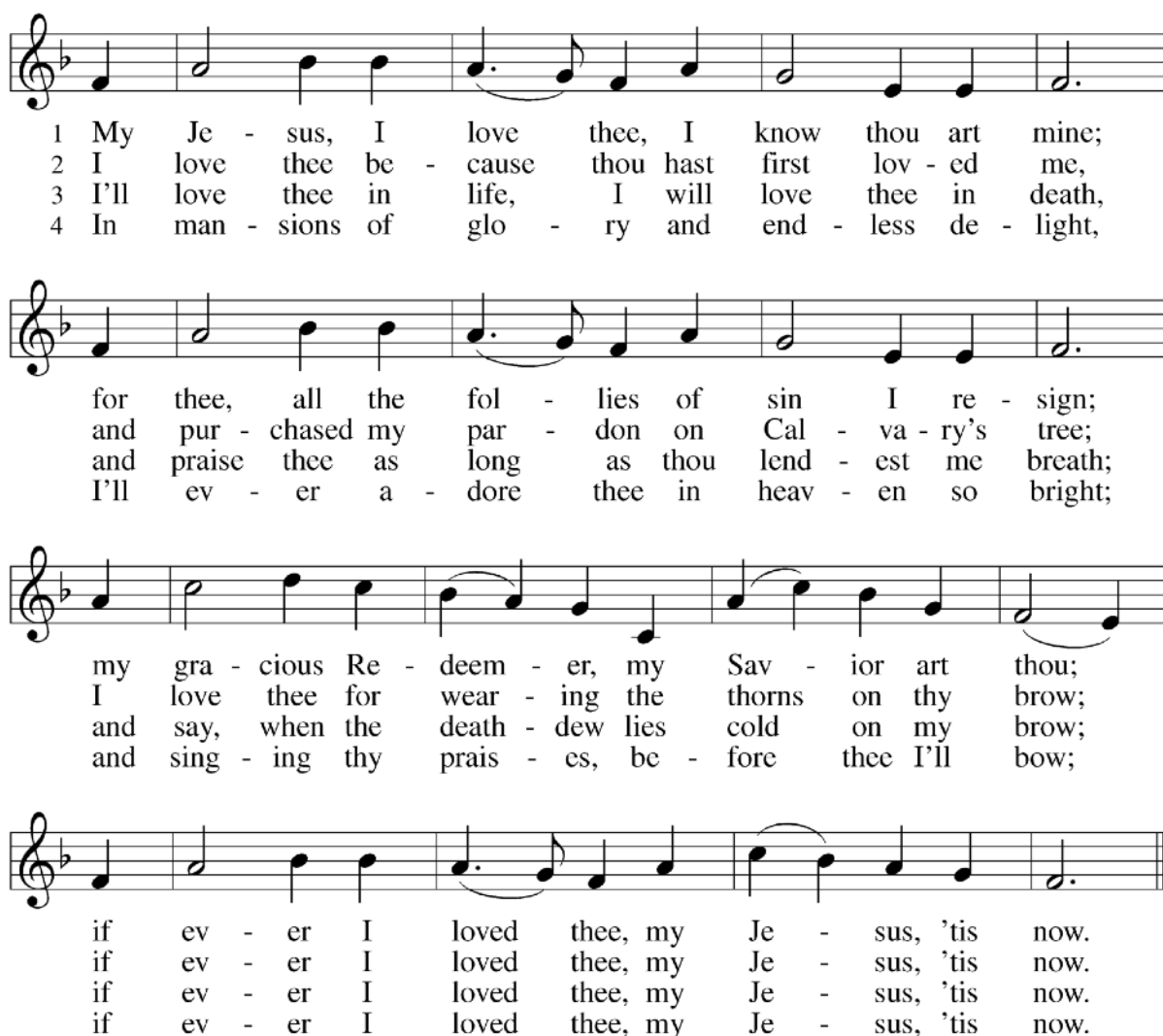
Be with us this day and walk with us on this journey.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

**Gathering Hymn:** My Jesus, I Love Thee (next page)



1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;  
 2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me,  
 3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,  
 4 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

for thee, all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;  
 and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;  
 and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;  
 I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;

my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;  
 I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;  
 and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my brow;  
 and sing - ing thy prais - es, be - fore thee I'll bow;

if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

## **Confession & Forgiveness**

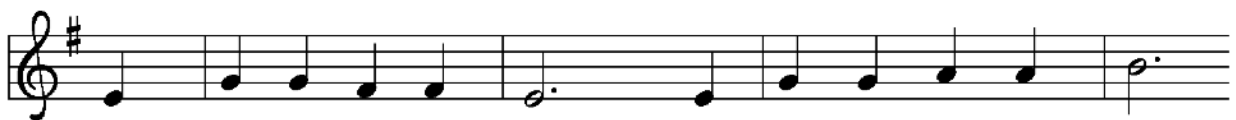
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God, strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## **Kyrie**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## **Prayer of the Day**

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsive Reading: 51:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

## **Second Reading:** Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## **Gospel:** John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

<sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

<sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon: Vicar Lisa Rygiel**

## Hymn of the Day: #343 *My Song is Love Unknown*



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its  
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

## **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.**

### **Invitation to Prayer**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

### **Prayers of the People**

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort the vulnerable, especially those living in institutions, those, who are battling or recovering from illness, and all of those in need **especially we pray for...**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation especially our Bible Studies and the upcoming new member orientation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared faith. Please share Christ's Peace.

*~Meal~*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **Offering**

*You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741).*

## **Offertory: #187 Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The final measure of the sixth staff is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

## **Offering Prayer**

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 Prayer of 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 our 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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**

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**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.  
Come and see.

*"Be still and know that I am God..." — Psalm 46:10*

*God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.*

*Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation, openness to God's word, and to listen for the voice of God.*

**Communion Hymn: #685 Take My Life That I May Be** (next page)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## **Table Blessing**

May the body & blood of Jesus, strengthen us, preserve us, and unite us in Love. **Amen.**

## **Song of Thanksgiving**



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev - 'ry - one what he has done.



Let ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Communion Prayer**

**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.**

*~Sending~*

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Announcements & Special Blessings**

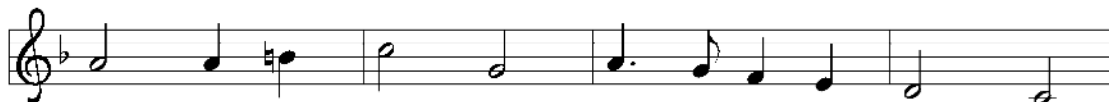
### **Benediction**

Fix your eyes on the Lord. Place your hand in God's Hand, trusting in God's guiding and comfort. Go into this world, that needs so much the words of healing love, and bring the good news of God's absolute love and presence to all people. ✝ Go in peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: #342 There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man  
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
 self - hood feed on its life blood.  
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending  
 this my resurrection;  
 into your hands, Lord,  
 I commit my spirit.  
 This have I searched for;  
 now I can possess it.  
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,  
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion  
 offers in mercy  
 healing, strength, and pardon.  
 Peoples and nations,  
 take it, take it freely!"  
 Amen! My Master!

## **Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## ~Announcements~

### Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2024

- **Special Congregational Meeting:** We will have a brief congregational meeting after worship today to officially elect Zion's representatives to the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. At this assembly, representatives will be asked to vote on a new bishop.
- **Lent Soup Suppers:** Each Wednesday during Lent we gather at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a Soup Supper and devotion. Plan to join us this Wednesday, March 6. We also need volunteers to bring soup, salad, bread, or a light dessert. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Weekday Bible Study:** The next weekday Bible Study will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 20, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **New Members:** Zion's is welcoming new members on Easter Sunday. A preparation time for people who wish to join Zion's as voting members will be after worship on Sunday, March 24, and should last about 90 minutes. If you have questions, see Vicar Lisa.
- **Easter Flowers:** On Easter Sunday, our Sanctuary will be filled with beautiful flowers symbolizing the glory of the resurrection. Sign up to help sponsor Easter flowers using the special sheet in the flower book at the back of the sanctuary. Include your name and any commemoration you would like to see included in the bulletin. A minimum donation of \$35 is encouraged and donation envelopes are in the flower book.
- **Portals of Prayer:** Copies of the Spring Portals of Prayer are available in the back of the Sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall, where a few large print editions also are available.
- **Early 5-Loaves Help:** The 5-Loaves team needs some help with early preparations for the March lunch delivery, as Zion's will be providing a special Easter meal on Saturday, March 30. If you can help with preparations, please see Norine Hazen.
- **First Sunday Potluck:** The next potluck will be Sunday, April 7, when we also will continue the Sunday Morning Bible Study, "How Lutherans Read the Bible". All are welcome!
- **Holy Week:** Palm Sunday Worship — 10 a.m. on March 24  
Wednesday Soup Supper — 6 p.m. on March 27  
Good Friday Worship — 7 p.m. on March 29  
Easter Sunday Celebration — 10 a.m. on March 31  
(Fellowship Brunch, New Member Reception Follows)

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Call to Worship and Benediction: Worship Connection — March 17, 2024 by Nancy C. Townley in Ministry Matters @ <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2453/worship-connection-march-17-2024>.