

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

“Freely, Freely” by Carol Owens

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

P 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.

R Amen

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

R 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

HYMN *“My Faith Looks Up...”* (vs.1,2,4) **HYMN NO. 759**

**My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

“O, Zion, Haste” by James Walch & Mary A. Thomson

P O God our Lord, strengthen our willingness to serve you. Sustain us through times of physical separation, and bring us closer in spirit to each other and you. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

R Amen

THE 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

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen

DISMISSAL

P May the Good Shepherd guide you through green pastures and dark valleys, and may you seek to walk with God daily. In the name of the risen Christ, we go in peace.

C Amen

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

GATHERING

HYMN "Children of the..." (vs. 1,2,4) **HYMN NO. 781**

**Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.**

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE (*Spoken*)

HYMNAL p. 147

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE “*Glory to God...*” **HYMNAL p. 148**

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen

FROGGING TIME AT ZION (FTZ)

SPECIAL MUSIC “*Count Your Blessings*” by E. O. Excell

Zion Gospel Singers

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Bowing before you in humble service, we lift up our praise, thanksgiving, needs, and concerns for the Church, our community, and the world.

P O God our Shepherd, praise and thanksgiving to you for your constant presence in our lives. Whether we find ourselves in the greenest of pastures or the darkest of valleys, you are with us. Fill us with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P O God our Creator, praise and thanksgiving to you for your awe-inspiring creation. We lift up to you all people who tend your creation: farmers, ranchers, gardeners, and anyone who takes care of animals or the earth. Bless their hands for their work and the fruits of their labor that are shared with the world. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P O God our Guide, hear the cries of your people. When our paths are stricken with illness, addiction, depression, anxiety, or abuse, reveal yourself to us and bring hope and healing. Raise up family, friends, and medical staff who can help tend our wounds and bring us to wellness. We especially lift up to you those who we name in our hearts.... Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P O God our Comforter, hear the cries of your people. Many of our brothers and sisters in faith have died and departed to you in the last weeks, and our hearts are heavy with unexpressed grief. Without a chance to gather as a community of faith, our mourning feels incomplete. Be with all those who knew the members of Zion who have died recently, including: Normagene Jenschke, Rosalee Heimann, Adolph Bernhard, and Viola Blackwell Jones. We also remember the lives of your servants who were friends of Zion, including: son of the congregation Rev. August Hannemann, and others who we name in our hearts... We thank you for their lives of faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed

R **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**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

OFFERING

The work of God continues, even when we can't gather in person. While the offering plate can't be passed around, there are still several ways to tithe:

- *Mail your offering envelope to the church office*
- *Check out Zion's website for online donation option via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)*
OR you can go directly to this link <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1367077>
- *Set up direct bill pay at your personal bank*

*And always remember, there are **many** ways we can make offerings to God, such as prayer and acts of service.*

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Bible p. 995

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING **1 Peter 2:19-25 Bible p. 1107**

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

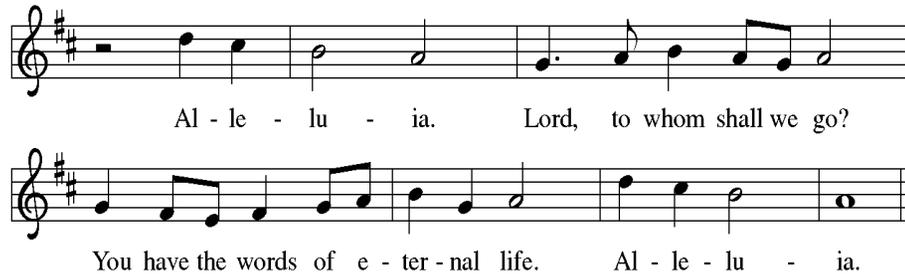
¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HYMNAL p. 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 10th Chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL John 10:1-10 Bible p. 979

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (NRSV)

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

SERMON

“The Shepherd is Our Leader”

Rev. Ron Windecker

HYMN

“Beautiful Savior” **HYMN NO. 838**

**Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Myrtle Becker, Melva Chancellor-Burnham, Claribel Hannemann, Peggy Janssen, The Family of Viola Blackwell Jones, Leola Landis, Gary McVey, The Family of Carol Potter (former member), The Family of Jesse Jack Sedwick (brother of Roy Sedwick), Bee Troxell, Evelyn Wells, Edith Wilderotter, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

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The Special Concern for May is the Fredericksburg Food Pantry and Hill Country Needs Council.

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To support our connection as the body of Christ and encourage the study of scripture, Pastor Ron and Pastor Lisa are continuing weekly devotions during this Easter season. New videos are available weekly on Wednesdays at 6:00 am on Zion's YouTube channel. Paper copies will also be mailed with the Sunday bulletin. To access the videos, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for "Zion Fredericksburg Texas." The search will take you to Zion's channel, and you can click on the devotion video.

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Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$2,420, your Zion Camping Scholarships of \$120, your Alms Fund Contributions of \$50, and your postage contributions of \$140 given this past week.

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We had 112 views of last Sunday's video on our YouTube channel.

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*Word search mystery word answer: **WORD OF GOD***

IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN IN THE MAIL BY SATURDAY.....PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH OFFICE PORCH FOR COPIES YOU CAN PICK UP.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fredericksburg, Texas

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Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 3, 2020

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30am

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30am

(go to www.youtube.com & search 'Zion Fredericksburg, TX')

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Senior Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Associate Pastor – Rev. Lisa Hoelscher; pastorlisah@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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