

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please register your attendance in the books at the end of the row where you are seated, and fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering basket as you desire.)*

P Let us pray.

R Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the faithful shepherds you have sent to Zion over the many years in this place. Thank you for their ministry done in your name. Bless their memory among us. We now wait in expectation for a new pastor. Wherever they may be, tend their heart, giving them courage to preach your Word, knowledge of your vision for the future, and the will to model consistent and godly living. Guard their family, that they may experience a healthy transition to our congregation. Bless them and us with genuine friendship. And bless the congregation that is left behind with a sense of your comfort and leading. Good and faithful God, prepare us for our new pastor. Set our hearts aright, encourage our faith, heal our divisions. Show us how to let go of what has gone before and, with open and eager hearts, take hold of what is coming. We pray all in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Lowell Mason & Isaac Watts; Arr. S. Robinson

(Please stand, kneel or remain seated)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

R Amen

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

BENEDICTION

P Wherever you go, may God go with you: may he go before you to show you the way...behind you to encourage you...beside you to befriend you...above you to watch over...and within you to give you peace. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

R Amen

SENDING HYMN *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"* (vs.1,2,4) **HYMN NO. 324**

**In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve in love.

R Thanks be to God.

"At the Cross" by Ralph E. Hudson & Isaac Watts

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to share the body and blood of Jesus that are present in the bread and wine of communion. If you do not wish to participate, you may still come forward for a blessing. As you come forward, please have your hands open to receive a wafer (the body of Christ). If you desire a gluten free wafer and/or white grape juice, please hold up two fingers to the server.

COMMUNION HYMN "Lamb of God" **HYMNAL p. 154**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"The Old Rugged Cross" by George Bennard

"Glorify Thy Name" by Donna Adkins

(Please stand as you are able)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

R Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

R Amen

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

R Amen

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. Holy God,

R we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen

P Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. 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

(Please remain standing as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" (vs.1,2,4) **HYMN NO. 793**

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

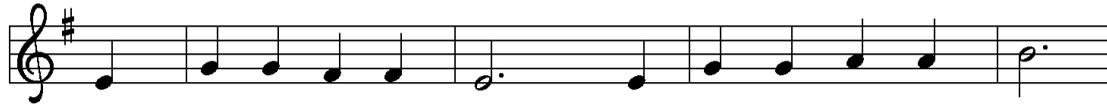
GREETING

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

R And also with you.

KYRIE (from the Greek word "Lord" – Sung)

HYMNAL p. 203



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

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R Amen

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"First Things First"

Judy McGookey

by consumed by fire

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

(Please remain standing as you are able)

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

R Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

R Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R 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

P When we eat this bread, we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R And also with you.

RESPONSE

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" ~American Folk Hymn

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERING SONG

*"As the Grain of Wheat" (vs.2) **HYMN NO. 465***

Refrain:

**As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

**Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain**

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Jesus, Remember Me"

HYMN NO. 616

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Repeat

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community; Text © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the 11th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. ²⁶ Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁷ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁸ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁹ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ³⁰ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³¹ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³² The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³³ When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³⁴ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Rev. Kay Johnson

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY "I Am the Bread of Life" (vs.1,4,5)

HYMN NO. 485

"I am the Bread of life.

**You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.**

No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

**Refrain: "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."**

"I am the resurrection, I am the life.

If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever."

Refrain

**Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God, who have come into the world. Refrain**

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Text © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: Kathy Haley, Dot Jenkins (mother of Susan Otto), The Family of Clayton Strackbein (brother of Perry Strackbein), Lighthouse Fellowship Chapel (the GCMA Church of the Week), our homebound and shut-ins, our Fredericksburg community, our nation, and the military.

The March Special Concern is the Food Pantry. They currently need canned meats, canned tomato products, and pasta. Leave your items in the Atrium wagon.

Lent & Easter Schedule:

Lent Services, Thurs, March 30 @ 6PM (meal at 5:15PM) – Fellowship Hall

Palm Sunday, April 2 @ 9AM – Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday with Communion, April 6 @ 6PM – Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 7 @ 6PM – Sanctuary

Saturday, April 8 @ 9:15AM Easter Egg Hunt (meet in Atrium) (public invited)

Sunday, April 9 @ 6:30AM Easter Sunrise Service on Cross Mountain

Easter Breakfast at Zion @ 7:30am – 8:30am – Fellowship Hall

Easter Worship at Zion with Communion @ 9AM – Sanctuary

Easter Treats Needed: We need small treats (candy, band-aids, hair twisties, stickers, etc.) to put inside the youth Easter eggs. There will be gray tubs in the Narthex and the Atrium that you can put your contribution in. Thank you so much for your help!

A Youth Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 8. Meet at 9:15am in the Atrium. Don't forget your basket.

Please bring fresh cut flowers to church on Easter to add to the Crosses during the service.

Portals of Prayer for April – June are available in the Narthex and Atrium.

Thank you for your Lent Contributions of \$290 on 3/16. **Attendance:** 6pm – 31

Thank you for your Contributions of \$2,935 given last week. **Attend:** 9am – 61

ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Rhonda Behrends

USHERS – Dwayne, Karen & Emily Beyer, Roger Dittmar, Doris Schneider

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

MON – Mar 27

5:30pm Line Dancing – Atrium

TUES – Mar 28

5:30pm Chancel Choir – Choir Rm

6:30pm Call Committee Mtg – Conf Rm

Lily Order Deadline

THURS – Mar 30

5:15pm Lenten Meal

6:00pm Lent Service – Fell Hall

SUN – Mar 26

8:30am Coffee & Donuts

9:00am Worship with Communion

(Live on YouTube & Broadcast at 10:30am)

10:15am SS – Fell Hall & Adult SS – Sewing Rm



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

426 W. Main – PO Box 1571 – Fredericksburg, TX 78624

(830) 997-2195 – www.zion-lutheran.com – email: zionfbg@gmail.com

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Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 26, 2023

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 9:00AM

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

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

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

Transitional Pastor – Rev. Kay Johnson

Pianist – Sheri Robinson

Choir Director – Rhonda Behrends

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