

FOR GOD
DID NOT
SEND HIS
SON INTO
THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN
THE WORLD,

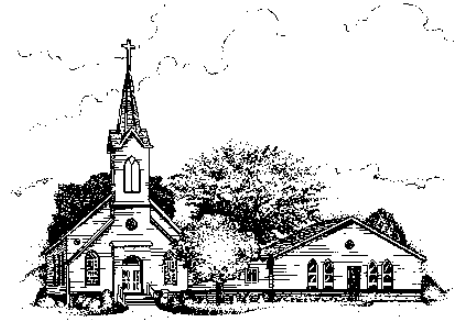
**BUT TO *SAVE*
THE WORLD
*THROUGH HIM.***

JOHN 3:17, NIV

Second Sunday in Lent
March 2 / 5, 2023

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

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Welcome to God's House

When Jesus told Nicodemus, "No one can enter the kingdom of God," he declared that the need for salvation is universal. He rightly condemned humanity as a whole. There is no one on the face of the earth who can make the case that they deserve God's blessing. Yet, ages ago, God declared that all nations would be blessed through the promise of a Savior. God saw our need and showed his love for us by providing his Son as our Savior.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

See This Wonder in the Making #646

- 1 See this wonder in the making:
God himself this child is taking
as a lamb safe in his keeping,
his to be, awake or sleeping.
- 2 Miracle each time it happens
as the door of heaven opens
and the Father beams, "Belovèd,
heir of gifts a king would covet!"
- 3 Far more tender than a mother,
far more caring than a father,
God, into your arms we place them,
with your love and peace embrace them.

4 Here we bring a child of nature;
home we take a newborn creature,
now God's precious son or daughter,
born again by Word and water.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-8

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

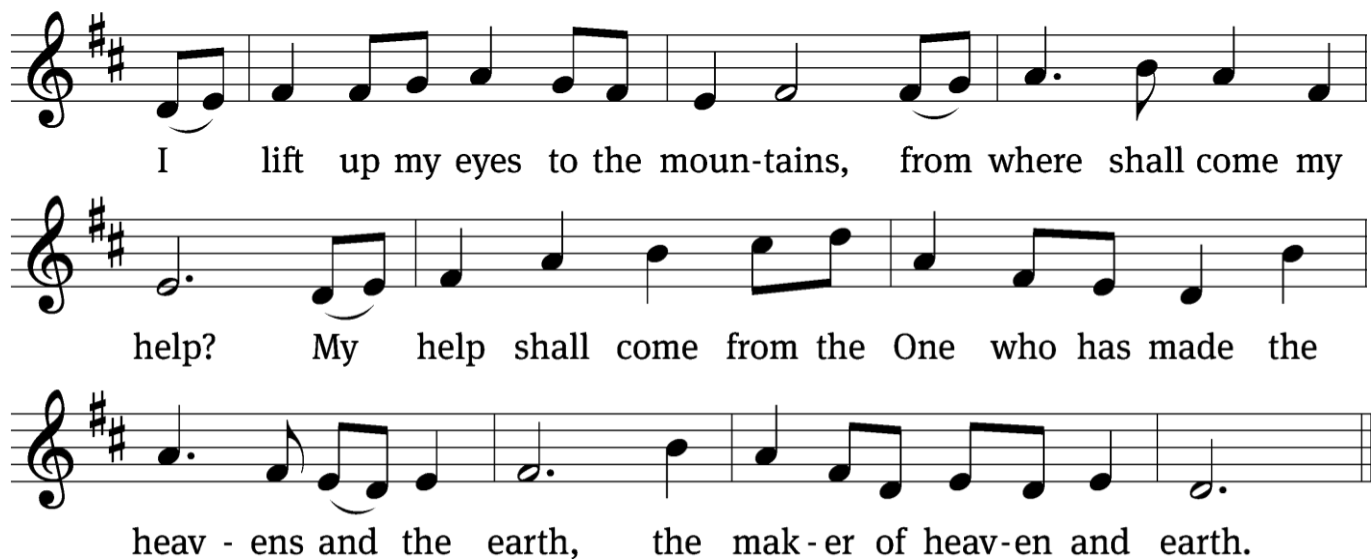
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains - 121A

Refrain



I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my
help? My help shall come from the One who has made the
heavens and the earth, the maker of heaven and earth.

Tone



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—
where does my help / come from?
My help comes / from the Lord,
the maker of / heaven and earth.
He will not let your / foot slip—
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
indeed, he who watches over / Israel
will neither / slumber nor sleep. **Refrain**

The Lord watches / over you—
the Lord is your shade / at your right hand.
The Lord will keep you / from all harm—
he will watch / over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and / going
both now and for- / evermore.

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

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness....

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16



Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Refrain

Gospel

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken

to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World So That He Gave #570

1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ is the solid rock of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death.
All who confide in him alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 God would not have the sinner die;
his Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word declares
that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood;
baptized, you are a child of God.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessèd Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Sermon

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

Please stand

The 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, we put our trust in you. Be our help and protection by day and night.
Our help comes from the Lord, **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Refresh your promises in our hearts and minds as we hear them again. Keep us in your grace.

Our help comes from the Lord, **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Let the Word of your love in Christ reach the world, that people everywhere may know him as their Savior, and have your new birth and the gift of eternal life.

Our help comes from the Lord, **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Let your salvation spread abroad through missionaries who declare your name in places where we cannot go. Keep them safe from all trouble. Be in their hearts and mouths, that they may confess your faith in the world, and bring many to believe and have eternal life.

Our help comes from the Lord, **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

You watch over your people, and you never slumber nor sleep. Keep watch over those with troubled hearts, those going through tests of faith, and those suffering in mind or body [especially...]. Do not let their feet slip. Keep them from all harm. Watch over their lives.

Our help comes from the Lord, **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

O God, you looked on humanity when we had fallen to death and resolved to redeem us by giving your only Son. Grant that we may confess him as our Savior, and remain in unity with him, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Hymn

Not What My Hands Have Done #572

1 Not what my hands have done
can save my guilty soul,
not what my toiling flesh has borne
can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do
can give me peace with God,
not all my prayers and sighs and tears
can bear my awful load.

2 Thy work alone, O Christ,
can ease this weight of sin,
thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God,
not mine, O Lord, to thee
can rid me of this dark unrest
and set my spirit free.

3 I bless the Christ of God,
I rest on love divine,
and with unfalt'ring lip and heart
I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt;
I bury in his tomb
each thought of unbelief and fear,
each ling'ring shade of gloom.

4 I praise the God of grace,
I trust his truth and might.
He calls me his, I call him mine,
my God, my joy, my light.
My Lord has saved my life,
and freely pardon gives;

I love because he first loved me,
I live because he lives.

Closing Prayer

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

To God be the Glory #627

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in. **(Refrain)**

Refrain: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son

**and give him the glory,
great things he has done!**

2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see. **(Refrain)**

This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Adult Bible study
	2:00 p.m.	Luther Prep Spring Sacred Choral Concert, Watertown
Thu:	7:00 p.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sun:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Adult Bible study

In Our Prayers LeRoy Schulz, recovering at home from emergency knee surgery last week; Calvin Eichsteadt, back home in Lomira after several days in the hospital this past week.

Lenten Worship Join us this Wednesday at 7 pm. for our third midweek Lenten service. Pastor Bode will be back in our preaching rotation and will lead

us in worship using the theme *His Final Steps Led to some Greeks*, based on John 12:20-33.

Lighthouse Youth Center The signup is on the bulletin board if you are able to help provide some of the food items necessary to provide supper for the youth down at Lighthouse Youth Center in a couple weeks. Please take a look and sign up to help out!

Bags Tournament On Saturday, March 25th, Zion will be hosting another bags (cornhole) tournament in the fellowship hall. Enjoy the food, fun and fellowship of this family-friendly event and compete for the title of Cornhole King or Queen! **Sign up today on the bulletin board.**

Sign up to Greet Thanks to all who have been willing to serve as greeters for our worship services each weekend. We'd love to work our volunteers out of a job by making this something self-sustaining...people simply signing up on their own as often as you'd like. Go to www.zionallenton.org and click on the "Greeter Signup" at the bottom of the page. Thank you!

Sacred Concerts There are two excellent sacred concerts coming up in the next weeks: Luther Prep in Watertown this Sunday (today) at 2:00 p.m.; also at Kettle Moraine Lutheran on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 PM in the KML PAC auditorium. Can't make it in person? Watch online at kmlhs.org/stream or www.lps.wels.net and click on the "v" in the upper right hand corner.

Installation of Officers Due to the late annual meeting this year as well as the difficulty trying to have everyone here at the same service, the members of Zion's council are being installed in various services. They are: Keith Bartelt (president), Dan Ehlke (elders), Lester Hahn (evangelism), Adam Janz (stewardship/endowment), Jeff Karch (treasurer), Rick Meier (financial secretary), Corey Schulz (building & grounds), and John Schulz (secretary). Thanks to this group of men who are willing to volunteer their time tending to the day to day business of our congregation. Please keep them in your prayers. We also take this opportunity to thank Matt Feucht and Gene Salzman, each of whom served faithfully as members of the church council the past four years.

VBS Helpers Needed We hope to have a summer VBS Day Camp again this year, working with a team from Camp Phillip in Wautoma. To make it happen

however, we need a good group of volunteers from Zion. We're looking for several coordinators to work as a team to organize the week. If you can help in this way, please contact Pastor Bode as soon as possible. Thank you!

We thank Barb Olsen for serving as our organist this weekend.

Easter Sunday Memorial Lilies If you would like to sponsor an Easter lily in memory of a loved one this Easter, please take a registration form from the cabinets, fill it out and follow the directions. The lilies will be delivered during Holy Week and you can take them home after the Easter festival service at 9:00 a.m. **The deadline is today (Sunday)!**

Please pick up one of the few remaining copies of the *Meditations* devotional booklet, the new *Forward in Christ* and the church calendar from the cabinets in the entryway.

Save the Date The Spring LWMS Rally is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in West Bend. See the bulletin board for details.