

Zion Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2021

Welcome

Call to Worship Shawna Spears

Invocation

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn

“All Are Welcome”

ELW #641

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

The lifting up of the serpent

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray



to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. *The word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near | to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10 *Saved by grace through faith for good works*

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. *The word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21*The lifting up of the Son of Man*

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Sermon

Pastor Ale Tulu

Hymn of the Day

“Borning Cry”

ELW #732

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Zion) insert

Baptism of Easton Jay Thomas Dondelinger, son of Casey Leines & Joseph Dondelinger.

Easton’s sponsors are Joshua Knott, Cody Knott, Lauren Johnson, Shane Dondelinger, and Evan Dondelinger

Prayers of Intercession *response: Your mercy is great.***Lord’s Prayer**

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

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

ELW #597

Benediction

All Are Welcome

1 Let us build a house where love can
dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end
divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets
speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees
us: *Refrain*

4 Let us build a house where hands will
reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and
claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to
rafter: *Refrain*

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Borning Cry

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the
Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the
night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

- Refrain*
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!
Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Public Domain

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician: Laura Rude

Worship assistant: Millie Reiersen

Ushers: Tom & Kaylynn Wold

Reader: Kaylynn Wold

Acolyte: Megan Peterson

Tech assist: Megan Brevik

TODAY WE WELCOME THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: (Zion)



Easton Jay Thomas Dondelinger, son of Casey Leines & Joseph Dondelinger

Easton's sponsors are Joshua Knott, Cody Knott, Lauren Johnson, Shane Dondelinger, and Evan Dondelinger

OUR PRAYERS TO Keith Johnson at Altru; Vernice Nelson recovering at Oakland Park

OUR SYMPATHY TO Mark & Virginia Swanson on the death of Mark's mother, Norma Swanson.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored in memory of Jerry Odegaard by Cookie Overbye and Dean & Pam Jopru.

ZION'S WEBSITE Sponsor for March is Zion memorials

REMINDER to those hospitalized to please notify Zion as the hospital does not inform us.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 8:30AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

LENTEN SERVICES are streamed live through Zion's Facebook page at 6:30 PM Wednesdays.

LAY READERS : We are looking for lay readers for the 8:30 Sunday services. If you are interested, please call the church office at 681-3296 or Carol Narverud at 681-4805. We'd love to have you

STEWARDSHIP (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

March 1-7 income: \$6,895.

Feb 1-28 income: \$30,336.

Year to Date income Jan 1– March 7: \$6,884.

2021 proposed budget of \$350,940. / \$6,748 is needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

ZION ANNUAL MEETING is rescheduled for **TODAY March 14th at 9:30 AM.**

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated March 21. Home communion cups may be picked up at Zion.

EASTER LILIES—If you would like to bring an Easter lily for Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of someone, please let the church office know by March 29th.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS may sign-up to Acolyte, Read, or Tech Crew for Sunday & Lent worship. Sign-up sheets on Madison's office door

NO 7/8th grade Zoom Devotion today due to Annual Meeting

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 14:

8:30 Zion worship/ Baptism/Broadcasts Cable 3, KTRF radio;
9:30 Zion Annual Meeting
9:30 Online Sunday School posted
10:00 Silver Creek Worship

Monday, March 15: Parish Nurse available by appointment

Tuesday, March 16:

9:30 Staff meeting,
Pastors Text Study
7:00 Zion Council

Wednesday, March 17: Confirmation classes participate with worship

6:30 Lenten Worship at Zion
7:15 Senior Choir

Saturday, March 20: Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, March 21:

8:30 Zion Holy Communion Broadcasts Cable 3, KTRF radio;
9:30 Online Sunday School posted
10:00 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship
11:00 Silver Creek Council meeting
11:30 First Communion Class in Fellowship Hall
1:00 Baptism at Zion
3-4:30 Pathways Annual Meeting via Zoom
3-5 Boy Scouts meet at Zion

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation *Office Phone:* 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048
Alemayehu Tulu, *Associate Pastor* 681-1866 alezion@mncable.net
Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* ziontrf@mncable.net; Tiffany Sterry & David Lee, *Custodial*
Madison Crane, *Youth & Family Ministries* rzyouthfam@gmail.com; Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse*

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Look and Live

The cure for the ancient Israelites, following Moses, is to look directly at what is killing them, rather than avoid or hide from it. Healing occurs in the confrontation.

In today's gospel, Jesus likens his crucifixion to Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness so the Israelites might be saved from the venom of desert snakes. In doing so, Jesus communicates that he came so we might look at what is killing us. He came to shine a light on that which poisons our lives so we might live.

In today's gospel, we catch Jesus in the middle of a conversation with a Pharisee named Nicodemus, who is slinking around in the night to get a word in with Jesus, presumably so he is not seen. In this conversation Jesus gives a judgment that shines a light on Nicodemus: you, Nicodemus, seem to prefer the darkness because there is something you are doing that you want to hide, thus making it easier for you to live in the dark. This sounds an awful lot like the experience of shame. Jesus is naming the way shame has dictated Nicodemus's life, relegating him to shadows where he will not be seen for what he really is. Notice the lack of condemnation. Jesus is simply a light, showing Nicodemus to himself.

Jesus is also a light to us, showing us to ourselves. Looking at Jesus lifted up on the cross, we see the poison that is killing us: power used to protect the status quo; our instinct to blame one in order to save the rest. We see the fruit of our defenses against what the light reveals: the death of an innocent man at the hands of those in power.

Christ has come so that we will see what is poisoning us and that, in seeing, we might turn and live.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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