

**Zion Creek Lutheran Church**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion ~ March 21, 2021**



**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**    "I will Exalt the Lord"    Senior Choir

**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**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

**ELW #793**

**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.**

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

*A new covenant written on the heart*

<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. *The word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm: Psalm 51:1-12**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God.*

- <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**

*Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*

<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.

*The word of the Lord...Thanks be to God.*

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

## *The grain of wheat dying in the earth*

<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.

### **Sermon**

Pastor Ale Tulu

### **Hymn of the Day**

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW #781

### **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayers of Intercession** *response: Your mercy is great.*

**Words of Institution**

## **The Song (Zion)**

*Congregation:* We share this food together, rememb'ring Christ;  
we share a common treasure and know the price;  
we share it without measure, a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above.

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## **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.

## **Communion Distribution**

**Prayer after Communion** Response: Amen.

**Hymn**

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

ELW #815

**Benediction**

## Be Thou My Vision

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou  
art.
- 4 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 Public Domain

## Children of the Heavenly Father

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 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.

- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth,  
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
- 4 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  
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## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the  
world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

### *Refrain*

In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my  
path,  
and show me the way to the Father.

### *Refrain*

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the  
race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

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**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:* Patty Schob, Sharon Bergerson  
*Reader:* Glenice Johnson      *Acolyte:* Olivia Tougas      *Tech assist:* Keaton Hoverson

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



Estee Theodora Holtan, daughter of Aaron & Ashley Holtan  
Estee's sponsors are Amber Holtan, Chris VandeVelde, Amanda Jeworrek

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are in Honor of Estee Theodora Holtan's baptism

**OUR PRAYERS TO** Mitch Hams hospitalized in Fargo, Katie Mumm recovering at home, Gail VandeStreek at Grand Forks Rehab, Keith Johnson recovering at home.

**OUR SYMPATHY TO** Arvid Halvorson on the death of his sister, Jean Hart.

**BROADCASTS** today are sponsored in memory of Lora Johnson by Ray & Kathy Wagner.

**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](http://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.

**HOLY COMMUNION** will be celebrated today, March 21. Home communion cups may be picked up at Zion. April communion will be April 4 & 18.

**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.

**THE 12TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL** will be on Friday April 2nd starting at Noon. We will break for the Good Friday service and then continue after the service. There is a sign up sheet, but is not necessary. Please come as you are and when you can. The hope is to have someone in the sanctuary continually through out the day praying. With the year we have been through, prayer is more important then ever. This is an experience you won't soon forget and what a wonderful way to renew our mind, heart and soul! This is a time of mediation and prayer and booklets will be provided. There will also be a box for prayer requests. All are welcome! Questions please call Deb Holtan at 686-3758 or 449-4645.

**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

**THANK YOU** to all who have sent cards, phone calls, prayer shawl ministry ladies, and to Pam & Patti (daughters) for their wonderful care as I recuperate at home from my medical procedure. Thank you and Bless you all! Della Burstad

**ZION QUILTERS** will start their quilt-making work sessions again on Thursday, March 25, 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to come. The usual spring pick-up for Lutheran World Relief quilts and care kits is May 1. Watch for further information on work sessions for assembling various kits and final packing for shipment in April. If you have gathered items for kits during the past year, please bring them to church to be included.

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

**K-5 EASTER EGG HUNT**—Saturday, April 3rd time Pre-register by March 26—message Madison with student name and grade to reserve your spot!

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

March 8-14 income: \$3,518.

March 1-14 income: \$10,402.

Year to Date income Jan 1– March 14: \$66,437.

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

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

**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/ SC Council meets following worship

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

**Monday, March 22:** Parish Nurse available by appointment

**Tuesday, March 23:** 9:30 Staff meeting,

Pastors Text Study

**Wednesday, March 24:** Confirmation classes participate with worship

6:30 Lenten Worship at Zion

7:15 Senior Choir

**Thursday, March 25:** 1:00 PM Quilting resumes in Fellowship hall

**Sunday, March 28: PALM SUNDAY**

8:30 Zion worship; Broadcasts Cable 3, KTRF radio;

9:30 Online Sunday School posted

9:30 6/7 Grade Zoom Devotional

10:00 Silver Creek Worship

11:30 First Communion Class in Fellowship Hall

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*Ministers:* Every Member of the Congregation

*Office Phone:* 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048

Alemayehu Tulu, *Associate Pastor* 681-1866 [alezion@mncable.net](mailto:alezion@mncable.net)

Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net); Tiffany Sterry & David Lee, *Custodial*

Madison Crane, *Youth & Family Ministries* 608-535-9151, [rzyouthfam@gmail.com](mailto:rzyouthfam@gmail.com); Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse*

✙ **MAUNDY THURSDAY –APRIL 1-** worship will be at 6:30 PM with 5th/6th grade students who completed the required classes to receive their First Communion

✙ **GOOD FRIDAY –APRIL 2-** Prayer Vigil will begin at Noon and continue until Worship at 6:30 that evening.

✙ **EASTER SUNDAY –APRIL 4-**Worship Schedule

7:00 AM—Youth Sunrise Service at Zion

8:30 AM—Holy Communion Easter Worship at Zion

10:00 AM– Holy Communion Easter Worship at Silver Creek

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**March 21, 2021**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Life Not Thwarted by Death**

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.

When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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