

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Thief River Falls, MN

Season of Lent

March 20, 2022



## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CALL TO WORSHIP** “At This Table” Senior Choir

## \*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.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW #618

## \*GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE** (p. 203) *Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer...*  
(\*Please stand as you are able.)

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 204)

*Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth...*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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: Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there<sup>1</sup> is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT (p. 142)**

Return to the Lord , your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
And abounding in steadfast love.

### **\*GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

**P:** The holy Gospel...

**C:** **Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** “We Do Not Suffer Alone”      PASTOR MARK HELGELAND

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW #773

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**      ELW page 229

Baptism of Krew Gordon Joppru, son of Jacob & Brooke Joppru

Sponsors are Jacob & Brittany Beito, Nick & Ashley Beito

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **Receive our prayer.**

**OFFERING & OFFERTORY** *Offering plates are available in the narthex. Ushers will bring the plates forward at this time.*

**\*OFFERING CANTICLE** “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” # 182

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing...*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

C **Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*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** *(Ushers will guide you forward at this time)*

**\*SONG AFTER COMMUNION** "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" # 204

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Response: **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** "O Living Bread From Heaven" ELW #542

**\*BLESSING** Response: **Amen.**

† †



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

March 7-13: income: \$3,233.

March 1-13 income: \$9,765.

Jan 1– Mar 13 income: \$59,444.

2022 Budget \$324,553./ \$6,241. needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

Vanco Electronic Giving is available - forms are on the table by the office. You can also set up contributions thru Zion's website.

**OUTDOOR ELECTRONIC SIGN** Current donations & Pledges: \$10,260.

**Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®** Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars directions can make a profound impact.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – The Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf is looking for a couple of volunteers who have a truck to assist us in picking up our weekly donations from Hugo's and Walmart. Pickup days are Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. If interested, call Alecia at 218-684-4097.

*Ministers:* Every Member of the Congregation  
Mark Helgeland, *Interim Pastor*  
Tiffany Sterry, David Lee 686-0733, *Custodians*

*Office Phone:* 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048  
Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net);

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Today - Sunday, March 20:**

9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship/Baptism/  
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10:00 Sunday School

10 Coffee fellowship

10:00 Book discussion in Patio room

10:30 Silver Creek Holy Communion worship

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

3:00 Pathways Annual meeting

**Monday, March 21:**

9 SAIL

Newsletter Deadline

6 Cub Scouts

**Tuesday, March 22:**

9:30 Dorcas circle at Ruth Ostby's home

12 noon Pastors text study

**Wednesday, March 23:**

1:30 Sarah circle in lounge

5:30 Lenten supper served by Choir

6:30 Lenten Worship

7:15 Senior Choir

**Thursday, March 24:**

9 SAIL

9 ZLCW work day

12-4 LSS Respite Care in lounge

**Friday, March 25:**

7 Men's Breakfast at Biff's

**Next Sunday, March 27:**

9:00 Zion Worship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10:00 Sunday School

10 Coffee fellowship

10:00 Book discussion in Patio room

10:30 Silver Creek worship

12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

2-4 PM Marie Engen's 90th birthday celebration in fellowship hall

## YOUTH NEWS



5th Grade First Communion classes will be held March 27 & April 3 during Sunday School. A parent or adult is required to attend with the student. Shawna Spears and Denny Minks will lead the classes.

**NOISY OFFERING** will be collected on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of each month. **March Noisy offering is for Pathways.**

Thank you to our student families who are providing treats for coffee fellowship!



**PATHWAYS BIBLE CAMP SUNDAY** is next Sunday, **MARCH 27TH** information is now available on their website [pathwaysbiblecamp.org](http://pathwaysbiblecamp.org). Printed brochures and camp schedules available on the youth bulletin board.

**FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP - March 20th** in the Fellowship Hall. Food and Fellowship will happen the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Donations will go towards new furniture for our Sunday school classrooms.

### 8-10TH GRADE WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes resume following Lent  
Attendance is required at Wednesday Lenten Services.



### Lent Service Meal Clean-Up Help

Every year we ask students to help with the clean-up after the Lenten meals. Here is the schedule with the corresponding grades for each night. All students are asked to help.

Please be at church by 5:30 on your clean-up night.

\*Parental help is needed for elementary nights

March 23	5th and 6th Grade
March 30	3th-4th Grade and 11th Grade
April 6	K-2nd and 12th Grade
**April 14th- Seder Meal- 8th grade**	

**PARENT HELP** is needed for the Seder Meal April 14th. Please contact Kami if you would like to help.



## WITNESSES

### One Actor \* Eight Characters \* A Fresh Look at Jesus

A stingy Innkeeper with a Bronx accent, an Italian Lazarus who likes pasta, and a joyful Simon Peter on Easter Morning... all these characters and more come to life Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, MN with the dramatic presentation, *Witnesses*. Written by Curt Cloninger, this one-man, multiple character performance will feature Christian actor and speaker, Rev. Jonathan Swenson.

In this innovative and inspiring re-telling of the Gospel, Swenson portrays eight different characters as each responds to Jesus. Through these eye-witness accounts, both comedic and serious, the audience is encouraged to see Jesus from fresh perspectives; not cold and distant, but as one who was intimately involved in the “nitty-gritty” of life.

Swenson is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (B.A. in Psychology, Theater and Music, 1988) and Luther Seminary (Master’s of Divinity, 1994). He has served as an ordained minister for over 15 years, and is currently the Founding Director of Paraphrase Theater as well as the Director of Programming for Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria. MN.

Swenson, a trained actor, travels throughout the country sharing a unique blend of drama, teaching, music and story-telling. His regional theater credits include such leading musical roles as Tevye, Daddy Warbucks, Harold Hill and Nathan Detroit. Dramatic roles include Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* and Roland in *Taking Steps*. Swenson has also performed as guest soloist with Orchestra Iowa in Cedar Rapids, IA. Most recently, Jonathan can be seen in the feature film, “Miles Between Us” produced by ii Films, and heard on the soundtrack of Rich Melheim’s Martin Luther Rock Opera.

A \$5 donation is requested and will be taken as a free-will offering.

For more information on Jonathan Swenson, visit [www.paraphrasetheatre.com](http://www.paraphrasetheatre.com). For more information about this presentation of *Witnesses* call Pastor Kristin Ostercamp at 218-684-1155.

Paraphrase Theatre Presents

# WITNESSES

One Actor / 8 Characters / A Fresh Look at Jesus



written by Curt Cloninger  
performed by Jonathan Swenson

for more information  
visit Paraphrase Theatre on Facebook  
or [www.paraphrasetheatre.com](http://www.paraphrasetheatre.com)

Witnesses is sponsored by the ELCA Congregations of the Thief River Falls Conference of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. A \$5 donation is requested and will be taken as a free will offering. Contact Kristin at 218-684-1155 for more information.

Sunday, April 10  
7:00 PM  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Thief River Falls, MN

## Lenten Series on Job

Pastor Mark Helgeland

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Lent – March 23**

5:30 Supper – Senior Choir; Clean Up-Grades 5 & 6

6:30 Worship - **Sermon “Job Responds”** *God is a criminal, God is absent, The world has no meaning*

### **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – March 30**

5:30 Supper - Men’s Breakfast; Clean Up-Grades 3,4, & 11

6:30 Worship- **Sermon “God Appears, First Speech”** *Divine Order*

### **5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Lent – April 6**

5:30 Supper – Zion Council: Chili; Clean Up-Grade K-2, & 12

6:30 Worship- **Sermon “God Appears, Second Speech”** *Behemoth and Leviathan*

### **Maundy Thursday - April 14**

6:00 Seder Meal for First Communicants & Families; Clean Up-Grade 8

7:30 Worship & Holy Communion

### **Good Friday - April 19**

12 Noon Prayer Vigil begins

6:30 Worship



This Lenten season we are using the Holden Evening Prayer worship service.  
Please join us to share a meal and worship together during this Lenten season.

*(Free-Will donation for the Lenten Suppers)*