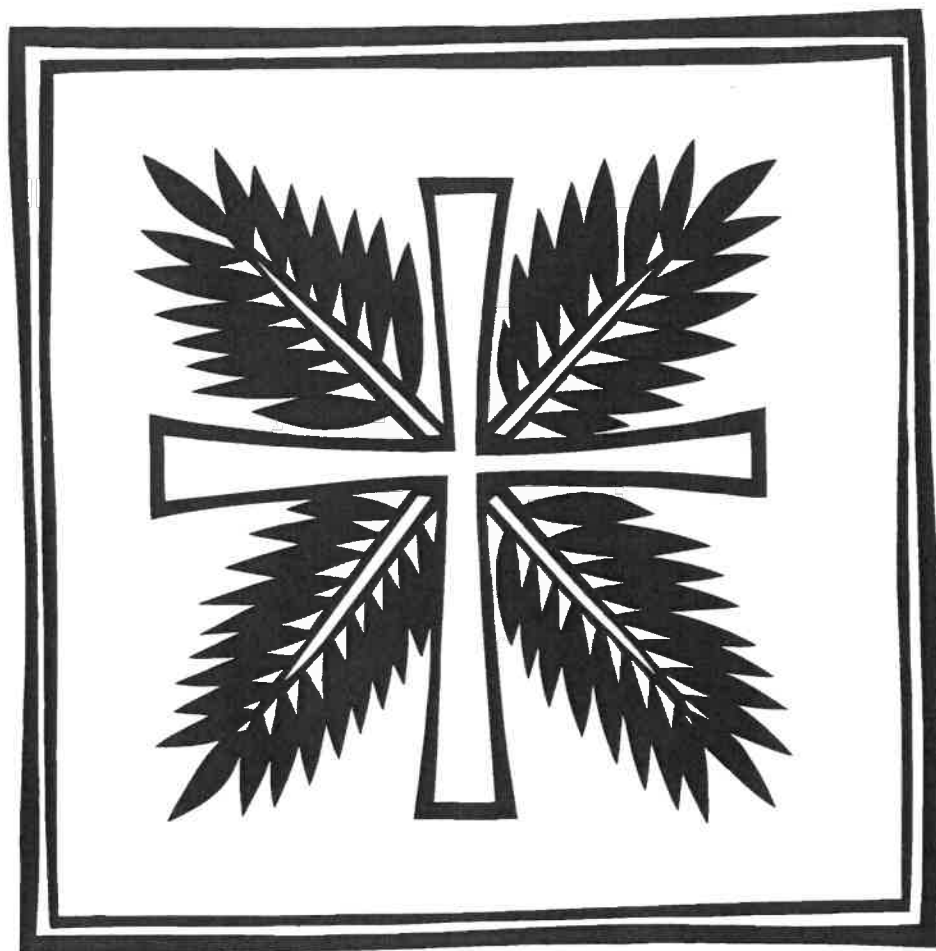


Zion Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, MN
SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY
March 24, 2024



Prelude
Announcements
Temple Talk—Deb Holtan

Processional Gospel Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn “All Glory Laud and Honor” ELW #344

Refrain

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

- 1 You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. Refrain**
- 2 The company of angels are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. Refrain**
- 3 The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. Refrain**

Let the Children Come - The Procession with Palms

Song “Hosanna”

**Sunday School kids and Congregation:
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest! Repeat**

Senior Choir and Cornerstone:

*Blessed is the one, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O son of David, blessed your Reign shall be!*

**Sunday School kids and Congregation:
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest! Repeat**

Senior Choir and Cornerstone:

*O who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Only those with a clean and a true heart.
Lift up your heads, O gates, fling wide every door to welcome in the King of Glory.*

Sunday School kids and Congregation:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest! Repeat

Hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor" ELW #344

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

4 To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.

To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain*

5 Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,

great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

Responsory Psalm 118: 1-4 adapted

Leader O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

People **his steadfast love endures forever!**

Leader Let the women say,

Women "*His steadfast love endures forever.*"

Leader Let the men say,

Men "*His steadfast love endures forever.*"

Leader Let those who fear the LORD say,

People "**His steadfast love endures forever.**"

Leader Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna!**

Leader Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Leader Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Youth Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna!**

Youth Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna! Hosanna!**

Youth Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

People **Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY "God Loved the World" ELW #323

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 Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We enter now into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection.

Silence is kept.

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN “What Wondrous Love is This” ELW #666 v. 1-2

1	What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?	2	When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.
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THE PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF ST. MARK

You are invited to participate in the reading of Mark's Passion. There is a Narrator and Jesus and all the other parts are divided into men, women, pulpit side, lectern side, and people. As you follow along, share in this telling of the story of the work our lord has done for you.

Mark 14:1-9 Jesus is Anointed

Narrator ¹It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; ²for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people. ³While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. ⁴But some were there who said to one another in anger,

People “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her.

Jesus “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

HYMN “What Wondrous Love is This” ELW #666 v. 3-4

**3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing.**

**4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Mark 14:10-32__ Jesus Foretells his Betrayal and the Last Supper

Narrator ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. ¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

Pulpit Side “Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

Jesus “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

Narrator ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. ¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

Jesus “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

Narrator ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another,

Lectern Side “Surely, not I?”

Pulpit Side “Surely, not !?”

Jesus “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.”

Narrator ²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said,

Jesus “Take; this is my body.”

Narrator ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

Jesus “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Narrator ²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said,

Jesus “You will all become deserters; for it is written,
‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’
²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

Narrator ²⁹Peter said to him,

Men “Even though all become deserters, I will not.”

Jesus “Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

Men “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.”

Narrator And all of them said the same. ³²They went to a place called Gethsemane;

HYMN “Go to Dark Gethsemane” ELW #347 v. 1

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

Mark 14:32-52__The Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' Betrayal

Narrator Jesus he said to his disciples,

Jesus “Sit here while I pray.”

Narrator ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them,

Jesus “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.”

Narrator ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said,

Jesus “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

Narrator ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter,

Jesus “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Narrator ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them,

Jesus “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Narrator ⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

Lectern Side "Rabbi!"

Narrator And Judas kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

Narrator ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled. ⁵¹A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

HYMN "Go to Dark Gethsemane" ELW #347 v. 2

**2 Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

Mark 14:53-65__ Jesus Before the High Priest

Narrator ⁵³They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

Pulpit Side ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

Narrator ⁵⁹But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus,

Lectern Side "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

Narrator ⁶¹But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him,

Lectern Side "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

Lectern Side "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?"

Narrator All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him,

Pulpit Side “Prophesy!”

Narrator The guards also took him over and beat him.

HYMN “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

**1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.**

**Refrain In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

**3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. Refrain**

Mark 14:66-72 __Peter's Denial

Narrator ⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said,

Women “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

Men “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.”

Narrator And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders,

Women “This man is one of them.”

Narrator ⁷⁰But again he denied it.

Women “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”

Men “I do not know this man you are talking about.”

Narrator ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him,

Jesus Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

Narrator And he broke down and wept.

HYMN “Ah, Holy Jesus” ELW #349 v. 1-2

**1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended
that we to judge thee, have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

**2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.**

Mark 15:1-25 __Jesus is Condemned

Narrator ^{15:1}As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him,

Men “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him,
 Jesus “You say so.” ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things.
 Narrator ⁴Pilate asked him again,
 Men “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”
 Narrator ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.
⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them,
 Men “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”
 Narrator ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again,
 Men “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”
 People “Crucify him!”
 Men “Why, what evil has he done?”
 People “Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!”
 Narrator ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.
¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him,
 Lectern Side “Hail, King of the Jews!”
 Narrator ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to
 own him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.
²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him.

HYMN “Were You There” **ELW #352**
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN “Were You There” ELW #352
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

THE LORD’S PRAYER

SENDING Philippians 2:5-11

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ’s example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ’s death.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, Word of life. Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Abide with Me” ELW #629

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements: Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Hosanna Dialogue adapted from author and teacher, Chad Bird, FaceBook post, February 9, 2024. “All Glory Laud and Honor” Text: Theodulph of Orleans, 760-821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. “God So Loved the World” Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. “What Wondrous Love is This” Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. “Go to Dark Gethsemane” Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854 “Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross” Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 “Ah, Holy Jesus” Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. “Were you There” African-American spiritual

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

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Kristin Ostercamp Pianist: Laura Rude Organist: Marie Longo
Greeters: Jessica Jimison, Dawson Colden Ushers: Jim & Sharon Baron
Readers: Denny Minks, Shawna Spears, Jamie Kalsnes Acolytes:

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER.

Those under a doctor's care, those who grieve, all who are moving through a challenging season. Especially Cassie Wilson. Sympathies to the family and friends of Glenn "Chuck" Johnson, brother to Pastor Gary Johnson; Dianna Williams, sister to Annette Lian; Warren Fay and Mary Radil, grandparents of Robert Fay.

WE PRAY for the 5th Grade class as they begin to prepare for First Communion which will be celebrated Maundy Thursday, March 28th.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored by Bethany Nelson & family in memory of Junice Melvie.

WEBSITE sponsor for March is Zion memorials.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE PRINT worship folders & bulletins are available from an usher.

Worship Opportunities this Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm Holy Communion worship. First Communion for 5th Graders.
Good Friday Prayer Vigil begins at Noon. Sign up on the narthex table.
Good Friday worship at 6:30 pm.

EASTER FLOWERS such as tulips, azaleas and daffodils may be dropped off at the church between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Due to concerns with allergic reactions, Lilies may be delivered to the church the Saturday before Easter or Easter Sunday morning. Lilies must be removed immediately following worship. If you wish to honor or remember a loved one with your floral gift, please contact the church office by Tuesday, March 26 to be included in the bulletin.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY is May 7th. If you are considering becoming a member, please contact the church office or Pastor Kristin.

SARAH Circle meets on Wed., March 27th at 1:30 PM in the lounge. Vivian Knutson, hostess.

YOU ARE INVITED to gather for Bread Baking for Communion on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 pm. We will eat Pizza and bake bread together. We will be finished about 6:45. If there are any questions, please contact Pastor Kristin.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

March 11-17: \$7,708. March 1-17: \$17,553. YTD: \$74,868. Weekly Goal: \$6,523.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING –Sign up available on Zion's website or contact the church office.

QR code to giving page:



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.
Thank you to all who have directed dollars!

THE GROCERIES TO GO & HANDYMAN PROGRAMS are available through our church. If you need this service or would like to be a volunteer for grocery delivery, call the church office at 218-681-3296 and Darlene will get back to you.

LSS Group Respite is a great place to bring your loved one to enjoy playing cards, bingo and reminiscing to their favorite music. Thursdays from 12:30 - 4:30 PM. Please contact Debi Retzlaff at 218.593.1333 or email at debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org for more information.

PARISH NURSE NOTES —

Easter will soon be here. There are many beautiful Easter symbols that have significance to us. Easter is the most important feast day in the Christian church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The feast day is “movable” and always falls on the first Sunday after the first full Moon after the spring equinox.

Among the popular Easter symbols, the lamb is by far the most significant of this feast. The lamb is said to symbolize Jesus, as it embodies purity and goodness, but also represents sacrifice.

The lamb was a sacrifice made during the Jewish Passover, which is a holiday commemorating the passage of the “angel of death” over the homes of those who had smeared the blood of sacrificial lambs on their doorposts, thus sparing the firstborn sons. Roasted lamb shanks are an important part of the Passover seder plate; roasted leg of lamb is popular for Easter in Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Greece.

Jesus was crucified during Passover week and then made the ultimate sacrifice, his life. He is referred to as the “Lamb of God” and “our Passover lamb” in the Bible. During Easter, we celebrate Jesus’ Passover from death to life.

“So they took branches of palm trees and sent out to meet him, crying out, **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”** John 12:13

God’s Easter Blessings and Peace. Parish Health

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: March 24: Palm Sunday

9:00 Zion worship Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF
10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone
10 Coffee Fellowship
11 Silver Creek Worship
12 GV broadcast ch. 37

Monday, March 25:

9 SAIL exercise

Tuesday, March 26:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse hours
10:30 Bereavement Group
1:30 TRCC communion
2:30 Oakland Park communion

Wednesday, March 27:

11 RSVP in Patio Room
5:30 5th Grade Bread Baking
7:00 Senior Choir

Thursday, March 28:

9 SAIL exercise
12-4:30 LSS Respite Care
6:30 Holy communion worship
with First Communion for 5th Grade

Friday, March 29:

8 Men’s Breakfast at Biff’s
12 Noon—Prayer Vigil begins
6:30 pm Worship

Next Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday

7 Sunrise Service
7:45 Breakfast served by youth
9:00 Zion Easter Celebration worship
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF
11 Silver Creek Easter Celebration Worship
12 GV broadcast ch. 37



Sunday School— age 3 thru Grade 5 from 10-11 AM

Cornerstone Kids—Grade 6 & 7 meet from 10-11 in the youth room.

- ▶ **Sunday School & Cornerstone Sing in church March 24th**
- ▶ **March Noisy Offering was for Pennington Co Humane Society**
- ▶ **April Noisy Offering will go toward VBS Day Camp**

First Communion

First Communion for 5th Grade students will take place at the Maundy Thursday worship, Mar. 28 at 6:30 PM

YOU ARE INVITED to gather for Bread Baking for Communion on Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 pm. We will eat Pizza and bake bread together. We will be finished about 6:45. If there are any questions, please contact Pastor Kristin



Thank you to our families for providing treats for coffee following worship each Sunday.

Please bring 2 dozen baked goods on or before Sunday,

March 24: Mark & Jenny Johnson, Matt & Chantilly Opdahl, Matt & Kasey Olson, Max & Vanessa Thompson

April 7: Megan Klamar, Mike & Jodi Flaagan, Nick & Ashley Beito

April 14: Nick & Cassie Wilson, Nick & Danielle Harris, Paul & Becky Peterson

Easter Sunrise Worship will be led by the 10th Grade Confirmation Students at 7 AM

Easter Breakfast will be served by the youth next Sunday, March 31st from 7:45 to 8:45

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - Join us for breakfast served after worship on **Sunday, April 21st**. Free-will donation goes to youth. Breakfast will be **served by 8th Grade students**.

Confirmation Classes— Resume April 3rd 6PM

Supper served at 5:15

Menu:

April 3 Chicken Alfredo

April 10 Tator Tot hotdish

April 17 Baked Mac& Cheese

April 24 Spaghetti & Meatballs



Congratulations to Stephanie Walseth!

Stephanie is our 2024 Hot Dish Cookoff Champion. Her winning hotdish was Chicken Parmesan.

We had 12 very tasty entries this year. Thank you to all entered. Your food was wonderful.

Thank you also to all that came and participated by tasting and voting.

We had a fun afternoon sharing food and fellowship.

We hope to do it all again next year!

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 24, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

The Heart of the Story

Martin Luther called the Psalms a “little Bible.” He wrote that all the rest of the Holy Scriptures could be found in them. Luther went so far as to suggest that in the Psalms the church can glimpse the death and resurrection of Christ. In these ancient songs and prayers of the Hebrew people, every human emotion is laid bare: joy and contentment, anger and sorrow, hope and despair. The Psalms give voice to the wide spectrum of experiences that mark our human lives. This is their power—they speak the heart’s language, turbulent as our hearts may sometimes be.

In a similar way, Holy Week places us at the center of the whole story of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. From the “hosannas” of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the seeming abandonment of the cross, emotions run high this week as the story of Christ’s passion reaches into the depths of our human experience. The palm and passion stories are themselves a “little Bible” of salvation for the church within the wider story of God’s saving love for all.

As we gather to hear the story of Christ’s passion anew, the words and rituals of the church’s worship life invite us to feel our way into this story from the inside out. We hear the shouts of blessing and come to the Passover in quiet hope. We follow to Gethsemane and to the cross, with mixed emotions. What does betrayal feel like in our bodies? What about amazement? Fear? How have we experienced ridicule or shame? How have we ourselves dismissed or derided others?

The palm and passion stories offer us a chance to contemplate Christ’s sufferings and meditate on our salvation—to come side by side with Christ’s passion and so to know and access our own. We are invited to honestly glimpse the workings of our own hearts. Nothing is off limits to God’s grace. No human experience is untouched by the story of God’s redemptive love.

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