

# Zion Lutheran Church

*Rooted in Faith ✕ Growing in Spirit ✕ Reaching Out to Those in Need*

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned against you on this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God, we are united with Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

## LENTEN SONG *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* ELW #611

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

## PRAYER

**Faithful God, even when yours is a still, small voice, you are still present. You are everywhere. You are in us and about us. You have spoken us into being. Your voice has called us into faith. You have formed us into your people. As we listen for you and follow you, help us to hear clearly your voice in the midst of all the other voices that surround us in this world. Amen**

SONG *Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory* ELW #561

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,  
loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story,  
shine on ev'ry land and race.  
Now as evening falls around us,  
we shall raise our songs to you.  
God of daybreak, God of shadows,  
come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness,  
in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom,  
we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder,  
love that warms the weary soul,  
love that bursts all chains asunder,  
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,  
ev'ry dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice,  
let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving Spirit of salvation,  
lead us on to endless day.

## SCRIPTURE

**Isaiah 55:3a, 6-9**

**Matthew 27:15-26**

***THE VOICE OF GOD: Barabbas & God***

**SONG**      *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*      **ELW #754**

Jesus, the very thought of you  
fills us with sweet delight;  
but sweeter far your face to view  
and rest within your light.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
nor can the mind recall  
a sweeter sound than your blest name,  
O Savior of us all!

O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,  
O joy of all the meek,  
how kind you are to those who fall!  
How good to those who seek!

O Jesus, be our joy today;  
help us to prize your love;  
grant us at last to hear you say:  
"Come, share my home above."

## RESPONSIVE PRAYERS

Hear my prayer, O Lord; **listen to my cry.**  
Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
**hide me in the shadow of your wings.**  
In righteousness I shall see you;  
**when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**and sustain us with your bountiful spirit.**  
Give peace in all the world;  
**for only in you can we live in safety.**  
Keep the nations under care,  
**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;  
**your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come before you.**

*(Luther's evening prayer)* **We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that that wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen**

## **BLESSING**

Now in peace I will lie down and sleep;  
**you alone, O God, make me secure.**  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **SENDING SONG    *Go To Dark Gethsemane*    ELW #347**

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.

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.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb,  
where they laid his breathless clay;  
all is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.

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**THE SEASON OF LENT** begins each year with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days, excluding Sundays. The

name “Lent comes from *lencten*, Old English for “spring,” a word that is derived from the Germanic root for “long,” since springtime is when the days “lengthen.”

Lent has been observed in some form in the Church since after the Council of Nicaea (where the *Nicene Creed* was developed) in AD 325. Lutherans, along with most churches having their roots in the catholic tradition, exclude Sundays from the Lenten time of fasting and instead observe the first day of each week as a celebration of the Lord Jesus’ resurrection. The traditional color for Lent is purple, the color of penitence.

Lent is centered on the themes of *baptism* and *repentance*, and originally served as a time of teaching and preparation for adults who would be baptized during a vigil service on Easter Eve. The Lenten season provides each of us an opportunity to reflect on our own baptism and to recognize our own need for continual repentance and forgiveness of sins.