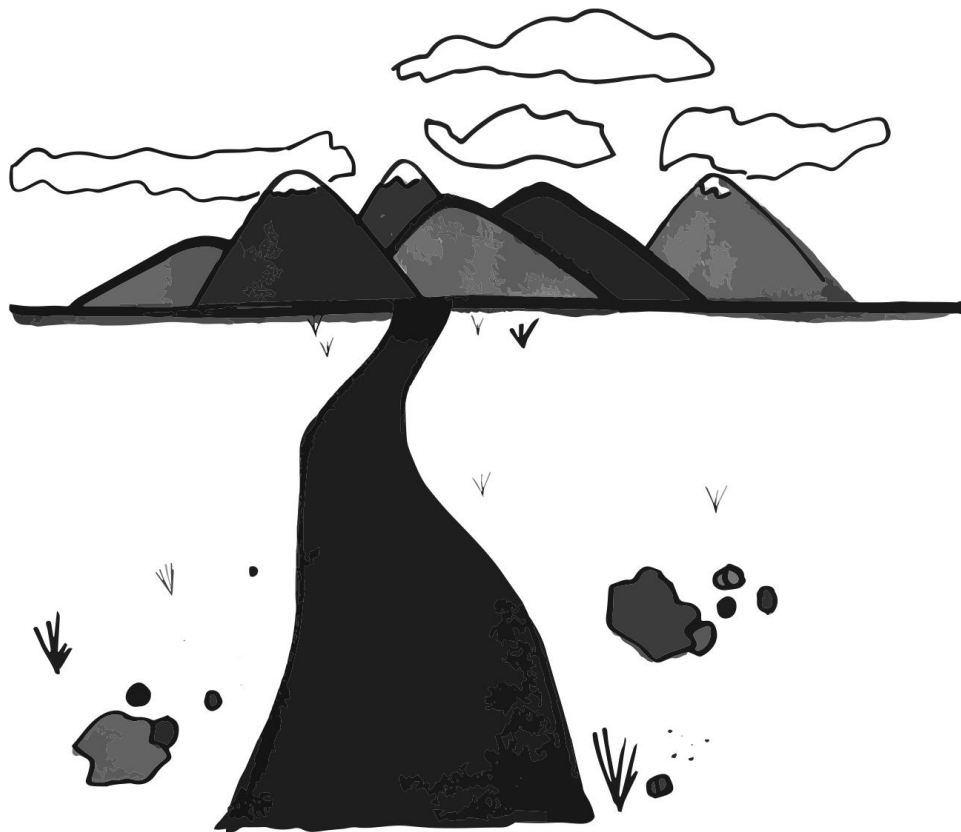


Zion

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



2nd Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

9:15 am Worship

Live streamed on Zion's facebook page

or posted at <https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranmanheimpa>

ORDER OF WORSHIP

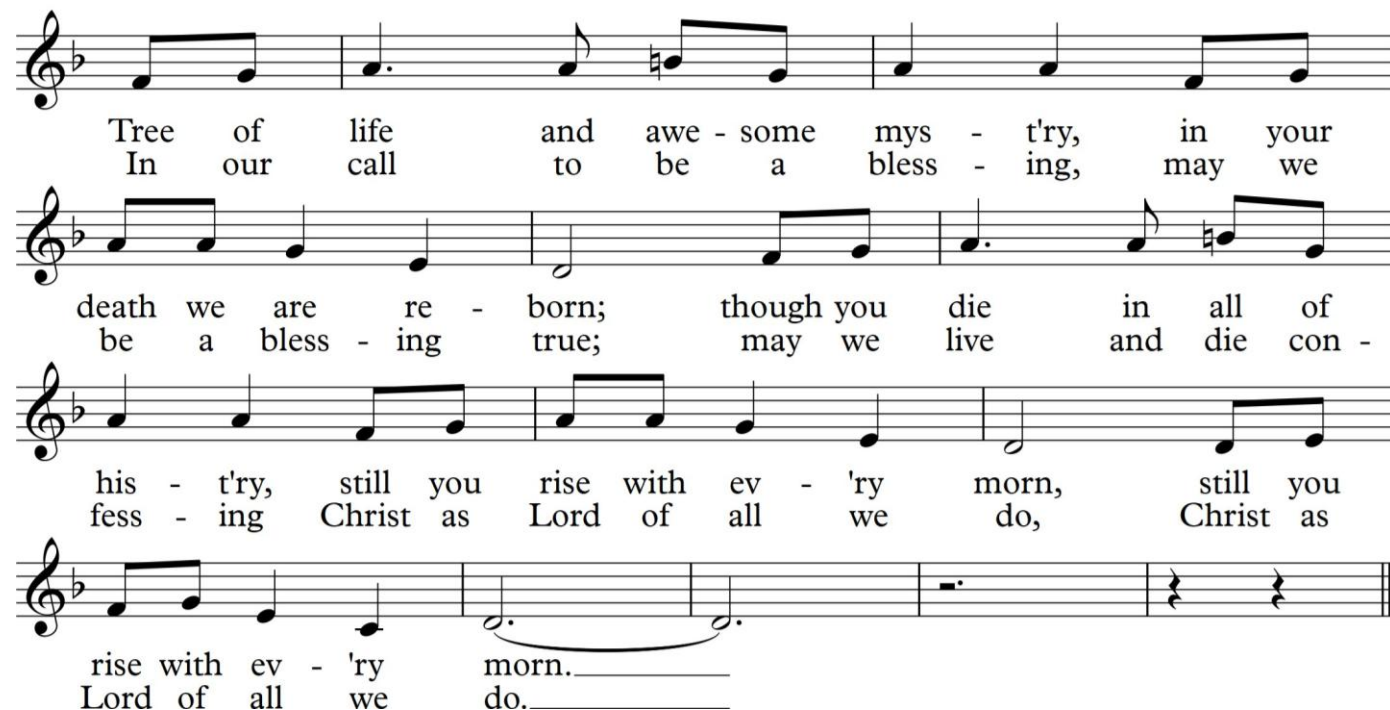
MUSIC FOR GATHERING “Llangloffan”

Anne Krentz Organ

Mary Welliver, French horn

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP



Tree of life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
In our call to be a bless - ing, may we
death we are re - born; though you die in all of
be a bless - ing true; may we live and die con -
his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
fess - ing Christ as Lord of all we do, Christ as
rise with ev - 'ry morn. _____
Lord of all we do. _____

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

As one people of God, we gather beneath the Tree of Life to confess our sin, remember the gift of our baptism into Christ, and seek reconciliation with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

Breathe your Spirit into our lives and our world:

Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Cleanse our sin. Illumine our days.

Revive our faith. Inflamm our hearts.

Embolden our witness. Empower our service.

Gather us beneath your Tree of Life. Forgive us, renew us,

**And empower us with freedom of life in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Receive the good news we each long to hear: God's love overflows. God's forgiveness is sure. God's welcome is all encompassing. Rooted in the waters of our baptism into + Christ Jesus, we are set free from sin and empowered to live lives of justice, faith, and love, in service to our Lord and our neighbor. **Amen.**

***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.**

***OPENING HYMN "O God of Mercy, God of Light"**



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through 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: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

PSALM 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*THE HOLY GOSPEL: Gospel: John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom

of God without being born from above.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that 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.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Karen E. Larson

*HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved the World”

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.
The response is: **Your mercy is great.***

*SHARING THE PEACE

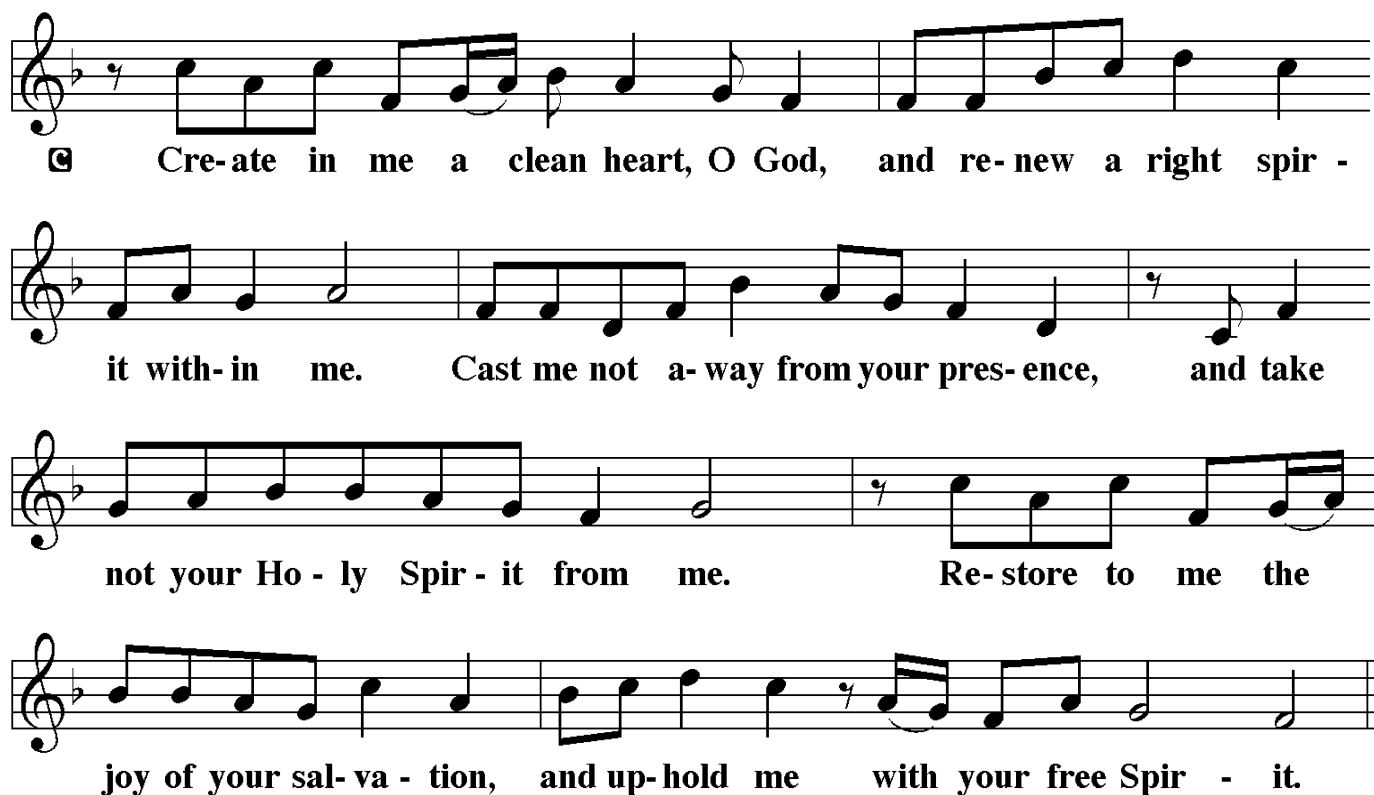
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

MUSIC OFFERING “God So Loved the World”

Aaron David Miller

Sanctuary Choir

OFFERTORY CANTICLE (*remain seated*)



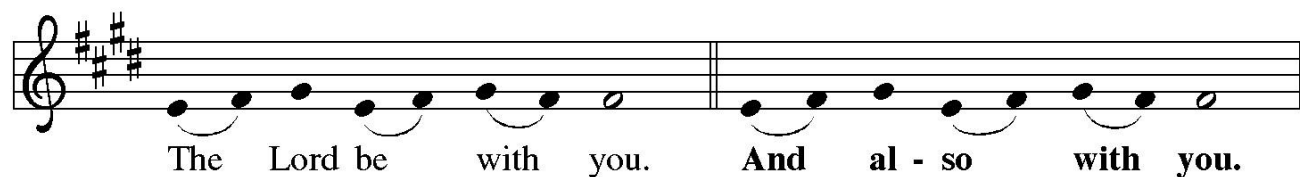
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

A stewardship note: Offering plates have been placed near the entrance to receive your gifts. An additional offering plate is on the stand near the organ. If you miss the chance to drop off your offering when you arrive, you are welcome to place your offering in the plate at the close of the service.

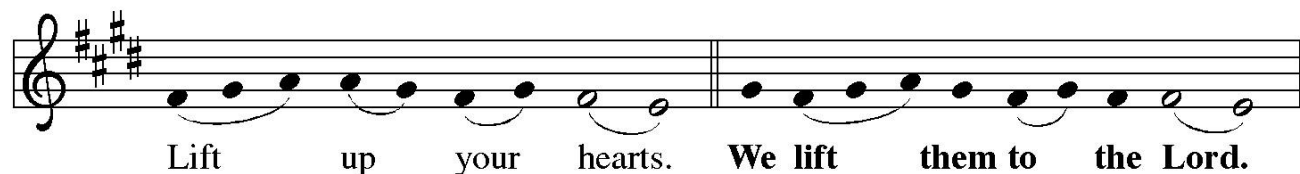
OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

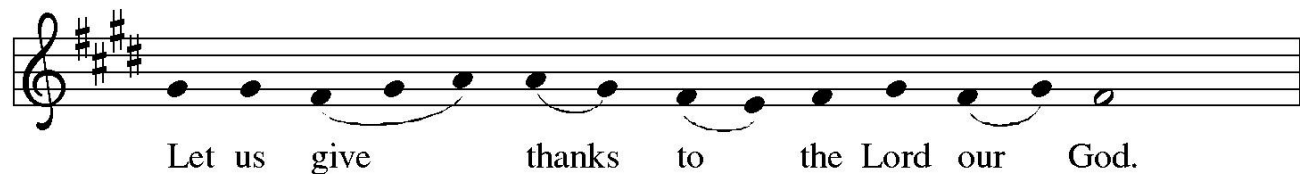
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

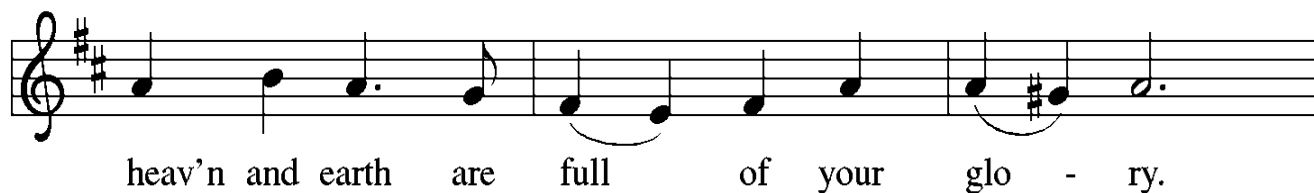


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

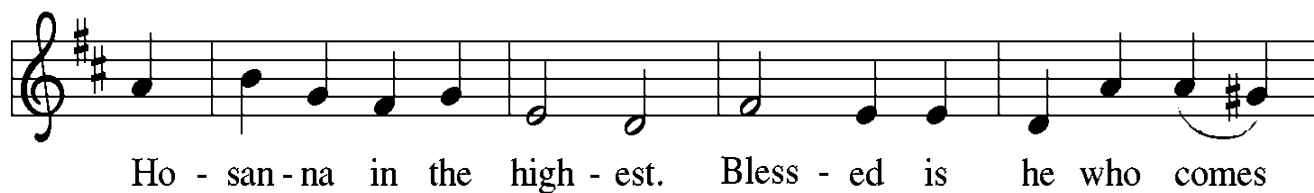
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



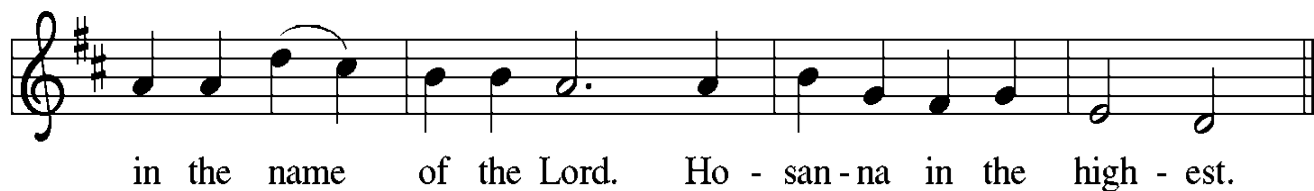
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Send your Holy Spirit now, we pray, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**



INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We gather at the Lord's Table and all are welcome. Communion will be distributed by continuous progression at the front of the sanctuary, and you are welcome to come forward by side, as directed by the pastor. In addition to the pre-poured cups of communion wine, grape juice (darker in color) is available in the center of each tray, and gluten free wafers are available upon request. You are welcome to kneel at the rail for prayer after receiving the elements. The communion cups may be placed in the small baskets near the end of the pews as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Wide Open Are Your Hands”



1 Wide o - pen are your hands to pay with more than gold
2 Wide o - pen are your arms, a fall - en world to_em-brace,
3 Draw all my mind and heart up to your throne on high,



the aw - ful debt of guilt and sin, for - ev - er and of old.
to win to love and end - less rest our way - ward hu - man race.
and let your sa - cred cross ex - alt my spir - it to the sky.



Ah, let me grasp those hands, that we may nev - er part,
Lord, I am sad and poor, but bound - less is your grace;
To these, your might - y hands, my spir - it I re - sign.



and let the pow - er of their blood sus - tain my faint - ing heart.
give me the soul - trans - form - ing joy for which I seek your face.
In life, I live a - lone to you; in death, am yours a - lone.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

***THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: “Crucifer”

Janet Linker

TODAY’S WORSHIP TEAM:

The Rev. Karen E. Larson, Interim Pastor
Karen Kline, Director of Music
Communion Assistant – Donna Moore
Greeter/Usher – Donna Moore
Lay Reader – Sue Shaw

Weekly Record	Last Week	Mo. Total	Budget
Attendance (in-person)	37	166	-----
General Fund offering	6,357	17,166	20,403
Greater Zion Offering	290	990	-----

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Zion’s web page: www.zionmanheim.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ZELCManheim>
Check out Zion’s YouTube channel @
Zion Lutheran, Manheim PA

Announcements

Nametags are placed on the table at entry to the sanctuary. Pastor Karen has asked that we use these to help her get to know us faster, (and in some cases to help us remember each others' names!). Nametags are a gift of hospitality!

Pr. Karen holds a weekly Lenten study after worship entitled “24 Hours that Changed the World” by Adam Hamilton. The study takes us on a journey to the Holy Land where we see locations and consider elements connected to the last 24 hours of Our Lord’s life on earth. Please join us!

Messy Church begins today at 11:30 am. Prayers, praise, scripture, fellowship and crafts too, for all who are young at heart. Set-up begins immediately following worship. Lunch is provided.

Please take note: Next week, March 8th, we begin Daylight Savings Time. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before bedtime on Saturday night.

Zion Preschool Fundraiser Planned – Zion’s Preschool is holding a sub/pretzel sandwich sale to raise funds to help keep their tuition costs reasonable for their families. You may place your orders by Wed., March 11th on the order forms outside the church office. Money is due by that date. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Preschool or cash is also accepted. Delivery of the sandwiches will be to the preschool on Wed., March 25th and will be available there from 11:15-2:00.

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church is planned for Thurs., April 2nd at 5:30pm. It is a catered meal (Dutch Country Catering) served in the Rose Parlor. Please join us for this evening event commemorating Jesus’ last supper with his disciples. Reservations are required by Thurs., March 16th. Cost is \$10/person or \$5/kids under 10, payable at time of reservation to Donna Moore or Yonnie Kauffman. Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. Also, we are looking for people to donate desserts for this event. Please let Donna Moore know if you would be willing to make something – 717-286-8411.

We still have two open chairs for the Teen Central Banquet set for March 10th. See the details in the March Rosette. If you'd like to join us, please call Donna in the church office at 665-5880 to let her know by March 8th. There is no cost to you! The table(s) are already reserved. Come, join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Join us on March 22nd for a time of Lenten Fellowship and Prayer – We'll share bowls of hot soup at 4:30pm with a brief program by Pr. Karen following. Afterwards, we will participate in a Holden Evening Prayer beginning at 5:30pm. Invite your friends!

Zion's Preschool will be taking part in an upcoming Art Festival in Manheim on April 11th. The event runs from 12-4, and will involve some activities and fun. Watch for more information as the time gets closer.

Inclement Weather Notices: In the event of stormy winter weather, staff and council leaders will consult about the status of Sunday worship services. In the event worship on Sunday morning is cancelled, Council members will notify you, a notice will be posted to Facebook, and it will be listed on the WGAL app on your phones. And remember, if it looks too threatening, just wait till another time. We don't want anyone hurt trying to get here...be safe!

The Food Pantry is looking for applesauce, beef stew, canned chili, mandarin oranges, canned pasta, baked beans, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and conditioner, women's personal hygiene products, and adult disposable briefs. (No used or opened items; no out-of-date items). Monetary donations may also be sent to the MC Food Pantry, c/o Salem United Methodist Church, 140 N. Penn St., Manheim. **Please make sure any food items you may be donating are not out of date.** Put donations in the cart outside the church office or drop them off in the box on the porch of the food pantry at 334 W. Gramby St., Manheim.