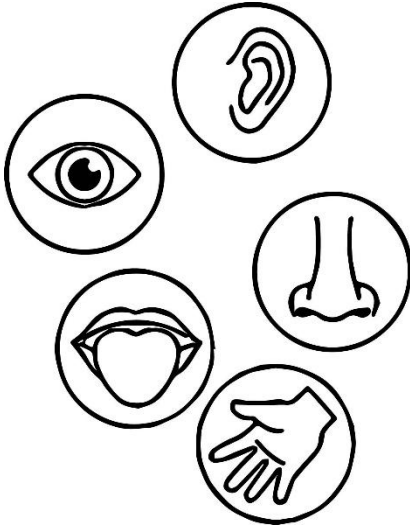


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

***“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”***



### **2025 Lenten Midweek Series Worship through the Senses**

#### **WEEK FIVE: TASTE**

**7 pm Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

***For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.***

### **Prelude & Announcements**

This service is a five-part liturgy designed to center on our five senses as a way of exploring the significance of Christ’s incarnation throughout our Lenten journey.

We are all made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by joining in our embodied experience.

Taste is one of our five basic senses. The sense of taste is the ability to perceive the flavor of substances. It helps you evaluate food and drink so you can determine what is safe to eat. There are five basic tastes: sweetness, sourness, saltiness, bitterness, and savoriness.

God gave us a sense of taste to engage that which gives us life.

Together we taste the goodness of God:

Sweet – What are sources of joy and pleasure that you celebrate?

Savory – What are the essential things that help you to be present in life?

Sour – Where are you experiencing conflict, or where do you

need change? Bitter – What are the resources to deal with pain or evil in life?

Spice – What are the things that are drawing your attention or excitement?

When we follow the Holy Spirit no matter where we are lead, the Holy Spirit will give us fresh power to witness and just as David sang in Psalm 34:8, we too sing, “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

### **Gathering Litany**

P- For these forty days, we journey with Jesus down the Lenten path. As we gather, we experience the ways Christ’s embodied life demonstrates God’s love for us.

**C- We come with hearts open to learn.**

P- We listen to stories of Jesus’ life with God’s people, because they teach us how God calls us to live in in the world.

**C- We come to learn from the stories of God’s ancient people, Christ’s life, and the church.**

P- We will engage through our senses with the power and mystery of the world God made, because this exploration calls us to wonder.

**C- We come to learn through the gifts of our senses.**

P- We will light candles to remind each other of the fullness of Christ’s presence with us in our worship and in our world.

**C- We come to learn how to better see and reflect the light of Christ.**

P-We will pray as Jesus taught us and send each other back into daily life with a deeper connection to the life and love of Jesus.

**C- We come to learn how to live more fully in the embodied image of God.**

**Gathering Hymn/Offering**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

**ELW 338**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine  
than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

### **Opening Prayer**

P- God incarnate,

**C- you have given us a sense of taste so that food becomes more than physical nourishment and allows our bodies to consciously engage with the nutrition we absorb. Open our minds and our hearts to receive the gifts you have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world. Amen**

“Sometimes we should express our gratitude for the small and simple things like the scent of rain, the taste of your favorite food, or the sound of a loved one’s voice.”

**Joseph B. Wirthlin**

### **Thanksgiving for an Embodied God**

P- God has created and blessed us. In Jesus, God has joined us in the experience of embodied life as an expression of God’s own love and joy. Through exploration of our own physical senses we are invited to know God in new ways.

**C- In thanksgiving for the gift of incarnation, we light the altar candles. *Pause to light the altar candles.***

P- Through the beauty of the candle's light,

**C- we see the brightness of God's love shining in every darkness.**

P- Though the warmth of the candle's heat,

**C- we feel the strength of God's love burning through all obstacles.**

P- In the scent of the candle's oil,

**C- we remember the promise of our prayers rise up to you.**

P- In the flavor of the candle's smoke,

**C- we taste the persistence of God's love, surviving in the flames and taking new form.**

P- In the sound of the candle's flame crackling,

**C- we hear the dance of God's love, which we are invited to join.**

P- May the light, warmth, scent, flavor and sound of our candles lead us deeper into the love of God today and always.

**C- Amen**

“The purpose of life is to live it, to taste it, to experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.”

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

## **Luke 22:14-20**

P- As we listen to the story, consider the significance of tasting the same flavors in this shared meal, and how Jesus word's might have complicated the simple act of eating and drinking familiar flavors for his disciples.

When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said,

"Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

"A crude meal, no doubt, but the best of all sauces is hunger."

**Edward Abbey**

## **Reflection**

### **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.

### Sending Hymn

**Borning Cry**

**ELW 732**

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker OneLicense.net License # A-716987