

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 TWO: SOUND

7 pm Wednesday, March 19, 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.

Sound or hearing, offers us a powerful means of communication. Our sense of hearing enables us to experience the world around us through sound. Our hearing never turns off. Our sense of hearing sound is always active, even when we are asleep. That’s why we can be woken up by an alarm or a gentle voice, because our sense of hearing allows us to gather, process, and interpret sounds

continuously and without conscious effort, we may take this special sense of communication for granted.

Because hearing is critical for connecting with others, some people believe hearing is our most important sense. Perhaps the most moving words about why hearing is important are a quote from the deaf and blind activist and educator Helen Keller. She famously said: "Blindness cuts us off from things, but deafness cuts us off from people."

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 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

Earth and All Stars vv. 1-4

ELW 731

Earth and all stars, Loud rushing planets
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain, Loud blowing snowstorm
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams, Loud building workers
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Classrooms and labs, Loud boiling test tubes
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band, Loud cheering people
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Opening Prayer

P- God incarnate,

C- you have given us ears to hear your voice in the sounds of nature, music, and the voices of our siblings. Open our ears and our hearts to receive the gifts you have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world. Amen

People hear you on the level you speak to them from. Speak from your heart, and they will hear with theirs. ~**Marianne Williamson**

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

Several times a day, stop and just listen. Open your hearing 360 degrees, as if your ears were giant radar dishes. Listen to the obvious sounds, and the subtle sounds in your body, in the room, in the building, and outside. Listen as if you had just landed from a foreign planet and didn't know what was making these sounds. See if you can hear all sounds as music being played just for you. Even in what is called silence there is sound. To hear such subtle sound, the mind must be very quiet.

~Jan Chozen Bays

Acts 2:1-21

P- As we hear the story of the church's first Pentecost, listen for the different ways sound communicates God's presence and power and for the ways in which God engages people to join in that communication>

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

God hears and He sees, and you are not alone in your struggles.
Remain firm and stable, for God has your deliverance planned.

~Joyce Meyer

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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.