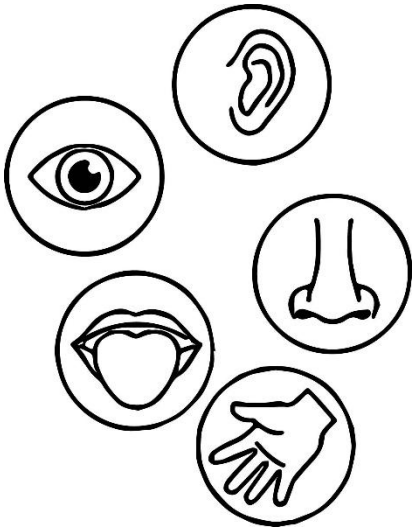


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

***“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 FOUR: TOUCH**

**7 pm Wednesday, April 2, 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.

The sense of touch plays a profound role to perceive the world around us. Our hands are open for the lessons God provides. At the font we

may dip our fingers into the water and say, “I am a forgiven and loved child of God. Nothing I do and nothing done to me can ever change my identity.” When we make the sign of the cross we can remember God’s blessing of sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste.

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 the woman subject to bleeding for twelve years, we too say, “If only I touch his cloak, I will be healed.” -Matthew 9:21

### **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**

**Take My Life, That I May Be      ELW 685**

**1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.**

**4 Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
ev'ry power as thou shalt choose.**

**5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.**

### **Opening Prayer**

P- God incarnate,

**C- you have given us a sense of touch to experience the world you made with such creative diversity, to give and receive care. 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**

“The more we learn about touch, the more we realize just how central it is in all the aspects of our lives—cognitive, emotional, behavioral—from womb to old age. It is no surprise that a single touch can affect us in multiple, powerful ways,:

**Maria Kornnikova in “The Power of Touch”**

### **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**

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand.

**Henri Nouwen**

### **Luke 9:42-48**

P- As we listen to the story, notice how we can be both oppressive and life-giving. Consider the agency of the different characters in the ways they touch and are touched, and the lessons this can teach us about how we might change how we move through the world.

Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and

gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then [Jesus] said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”

“We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is a friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls.

**Mother Teresa**

## **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

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

**ELW 618**

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

**2 Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.**

