

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.



Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion & First Communion Celebration

April 2, 2026

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

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

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETING AND WELCOME

Welcome to this Maundy Thursday service. You may be asking yourself, what does Maundy mean? It comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means mandate or commandment. The emphasis of the Maundy Thursday service is Jesus’ commandment to love one another as he loves us.

In tonight’s service we will learn about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.

The First Communion class will be involved in the service and they will be taking their First Communion tonight.

Tomorrow night, our Good Friday service starts at 7PM. We will focus on the last hours of Jesus’ life. May God bless this worship service as we stand to sing our opening hymn.

**OPENING HYMN - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW #631
vs 1-3**

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P - Ever gracious God,

C - we gather tonight as friends gathered with Jesus in an
upper

room long ago. We come with dry and thirsty spirits, bearing marks of a bitter broken world. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness and grace. Draw us nearer to each other in mutual service and closer to you within our souls. During this worship service tonight, deepen in us a sense of your steadfast love to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

P - Hear this good news. God has forgiven each of us and calls us to take part in this life of redeeming love.

HYMN - In Christ There Is No East or West ELW #650 vs 1-2

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding human-kind.

FIRST READING - Dramatic Reading of Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Narrator:

The Exodus scripture tonight is about Israel remembering their deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. It is the image of the Passover lamb that gave us the symbol of Jesus as the lamb of God who delivers us from sin and death. Let us hear from Moses and his brother Aaron.

Moses:

God wants us to gather in our house tonight and share a meal of roast lamb. If your families are small, invite your neighbors over too, so we can share.

Aaron:

After you butcher the lamb, take some of the blood and use it to mark around the outside of your door frame so it can be seen from the outside. Then stay inside and share the meal together.

Moses:

While you are inside, God will pass over your house so that you will be safe. That is why we call this a Passover meal.

Narrator:

So the people of God did as Moses and Aaron had instructed them, and they were saved. Ever since then, every year, the Passover is a day of remembrance for us. It is a festival to the Lord. Throughout the generations, we tell this story to remember that God takes care of us.

The Word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.**Psalm 34:13-17** (Read responsively)

Keep your tongue from evil

and your lips from speaking deceit.

Depart from evil, and do good;

seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against evildoers,

to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears

and rescues them from all their troubles.

SECOND READING - Dramatic Reading of 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Narrator:

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11, we learn that in the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Hear these words from Paul, who wrote to the church in Corinth.

Paul:

I was a bad person before I started following the way of Jesus. Now I want to help you learn about Jesus too.

Person of Corinth:

This is wonderful. Thank you for teaching us about Jesus. Please teach us about Holy Communion.

Paul:

Before Jesus died, he had a last supper with his disciples. During that supper he broke the bread and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper Jesus held his cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

Person of Corinth:

So when we have Holy Communion and Jesus' body and blood is for us?

Paul:

Yes, and you can think of Jesus every single time you eat or drink anything. That way you remember him at every meal a few times every day.

Narrator:

And so Holy Communion, also known as the Last Supper, was given to us from generation to generation. We are blessed with Jesus when we eat this holy meal. The Word of the Lord.

C- Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL - Dramatic reading of John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Narrator:

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter. Jesus gathered his best friends for the Passover feast. He loved his friends, the disciples, very much. Once they arrived at the upper room, Jesus got up. He set aside his robe and tied a cloth around his waist so that he could use it as a towel. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with the cloth (foot washing.) When Jesus got to Simon Peter, Peter said,

Peter:

Jesus, why are you going to wash my feet?

Jesus:

You don't understand what this means right now, but it will be clear to you later.

Peter:

No! I don't want you to kneel in front of me and wash my feet like a common servant.

Jesus:

If you don't learn to be a servant for other people by watching me as your servant, you can't be part of what I'm doing.

Peter:

Okay, if you insist. Please also wash my hands and head too, so that I'm totally blessed by you.

Jesus:

I don't think you understand. I'm washing your feet to teach you how to be a servant to others. I want you to know that you are never better than other people, even the poorest person you meet. You're supposed to serve them by helping them. (Jesus washes and dries Peter's feet.)

Narrator:

After Jesus finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

Jesus:

Do you understand what I've done? You call me teacher and Lord, and rightly so, that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've done this to teach you so, that you will remember to be a servant to all people. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like a servant, be kind to others, and live a blessed life.

Narrator:

One of the disciples named Judas got up from the supper table and left. Judas departed so that he could betray Jesus. After he left, Jesus said,

Jesus:

Soon God's glory will be on display. I'm glorifying God. You will begin to see glory all around. I'm only going to be with you a little while longer. You are going to miss me, but where I go you cannot come. Let me give you a new commandment: Love one another in the same way that I loved you. Now I want you to love one another.

This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples when they see that you are loving one another. The Gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

Offering Hymn - Jesus, Jesus, Fill Us With Your Love ELW #708

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. [Refrain]

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. [Refrain]

These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. [Refrain]
Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. [Refrain]

Sung Offering Response: Tune Doxology, Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

OFFERING PRAYER

P - God of good gifts,

C - receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - *When the pastor says, "Lord in your mercy" please respond with "Receive our prayer."*

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.**

HYMN - Love Consecrates the Humblest Act ELW #360

Love consecrates the humblest act
and haloes mercy's deeds;
it sheds a benediction sweet
and hallows human needs.

When in the shadow of the cross
Christ knelt and washed the feet
of his disciples he gave us
a sign of love complete.

Love serves and willing stoops to serve;
what Christ in love so true
has freely done for one and all,
let us now gladly do!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P- The Lord be with you

C - And also with you

P - Lift up your hearts

C - We lift them to the Lord

P - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C - It is right to give our thanks and praise

P - It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn

C - Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

**Grayden William Day
August Leo Garton
Heston Lane Grone
Emerson LeAnn Ideus
McKenzleigh Taylor Ideus
Luke Cohen Kolm
Layton Ross Lieneman
Everly Jane Meints**

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN - Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees ELW #471

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P - Bountiful God,

C - we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY

The stripping of the sanctuary is a somber reflection, let us remember that Jesus was stripped of his garments and suffered humiliation and pain at the hands of the roman soldiers. As you witness this act of us stripping the sanctuary, remember again to help those in need, those who have been stripped of their dignity. May you offer them compassion.

Instrumental Music - What Wondrous Love Is This

Removal of altar cloths, candles, ornaments and paraments.

CLOSING WORDS

The Roman guards came in the middle of the night while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. They have taken him away.

Depart in silence.

To my class:

**Emerson, Everly, McKenzleigh, Graydon, Gus,
Heston, Layton, and Luke**

It has been an honor and a blessing to teach such a great group of Zion's youth! May Holy Communion always feed your soul and nourish your spirit, and I pray you always know the peace of Jesus and the light of his love within you! ~ Sandy Meints