

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 17, 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 – Bell

Contemplating the last supper and Jesus washing his disciples’ feet while knowing his death is imminent, we also remember how this is a time of confusion for his disciples, who don’t yet understand that this is Jesus’ farewell address.

Gathering

P- This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Day’s of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

C- I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.

P- Tonight we remember Christ’s last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is the commandment that we live out the promise embodied in the meal.

C- I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.

P- As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world.

C- I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.

Gathering/Offering 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 bawling cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

Confession and Forgiveness

As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.

P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C- Amen

P- Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and by what have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbor as our selves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P- God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C- Amen

Readings

Exodus 12:1-14

Lector – *Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of the Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's*

Supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 - *Read responsively.*

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.
You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,

**in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord!**

1st Corinthians 11:23-26

Lector – 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 covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is the living proclamation of Christ’s death until he comes in the future. Paul writes to the church in Rome:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Holy God, source of all love,

C- on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gives a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

Gospel – John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P- The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of the slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will

never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord!

(Please be seated.)

Message – The Cup and the Bread

Offering Hymn – Come, Let Us Eat

ELW 491

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.

2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.

Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.

in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.

In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.

4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.

Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Jesus you are the bread of life

C- and the host of this meal.

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with a hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name. 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 the Church – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy”
please respond with “**hear our prayer!**”*

Words of Institution - Song of Consecration

Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.

He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,

“My body broken for you...is what this means;

remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,
“My blood is given for you, a full supply...
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem’bring Christ:
we share a common treasure and know the price;
we share it without measure...a gift of love;
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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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 to Communion

P- Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

The First Communion class will come forward to the rail and partake in the bread and wine for their very first time. They will be served by Pr. Jer and Karla Carstens. After they are served the rail will be removed and then all will be served the bread and the wine by flow through method.

Our First Communicants are: Austin Folkerts, Ava Meints, Brixton Coffin, Bryleigh Ideus, Caleb Kastanek, Debreigh Wendeln, Devyn Gronewold, Ellis Freeman, Jace Behrends, Macy Oltman, Mason Hippen, Mason Ideus and Tanden Wiese.

The ELCA and Zion Lutheran Church practices open communion. If you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are welcome to come forward and partake in the bread and wine of communion. Please fill out a communion card in the pew rack. Please hand your communion card to the usher when you come forward.

Communion Hymn – Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471

1 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.

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

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

Post Communion Prayer

P- Generous God,
as the grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C- Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

P- The stripping of the altar, the removing all ornament, linens, and paraments, is an ancient custom of the Roman rite on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord.

Psalm 22 – Read responsively.

Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;

in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;

scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me,

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me,

like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;

a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!

O my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me,

but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying that he has done it.

We leave in silence.