

## 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.**



# Lenten Service

**March 25, 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

## Ringling of the Bells

## Greeting

## Call to Worship

P - There is a place where fear is not hidden;

**C - But honored as part of being fully alive.**

P - We gather because we are called to be fully alive.

**C - We gather because we are becoming brave.**

P - The future we long for is already reaching toward us;

**C -And we step into it, even with anxiety and fear.**

## Opening Hymn - Were You There ELW #353

## Prayer

P - Holy Presence within and around us,

**C - We bring you our fear, not as something to**

**remove, but as something to transform. For even in the garden of Gethsemane, fear was not erased. Jesus felt the fear, prayed**

**and lived inside of it. Awaken us to this truth: That courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision already rising within us to move anyway. The strength we need is already here. The path ahead is already opening. And the life we desire is already forming beneath our feet. Amen**

**Scripture - Luke 22:44** Jesus knelt down, and in his anguish he prayed earnestly and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

**Gospel Sung Response - "Stay With Me" ELW #348 (sing twice)**

**Homily**

**Offering Hymn Be Still My Soul**

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to your God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend  
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! Your God does undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past;  
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul! The hour is hast'ning on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord,  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still my soul! When change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Offering Sung Response Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**Offering Blessing**

P- Loving God,

**C - we dedicate our offering, our lives, and all that we have to the work of compassion and grace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen**

Hymn - Nearer My God to Thee vs 1

**Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross, that raiseth me, still all my song shall be, nearer, my God to Thee; nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!**

**Prayer for Healing from Fear**

P- Sacred Breath,

**C - we remember the garden of Gethsemane, not as a place of weakness, but as a place of decision. Where fear rose to its fullest height, and still did not win. So today, we do not ask for fear to disappear. Instead, we claim something deeper: We are already stronger than what we fear. We are already supported**

**in what we are becoming. And, we are already stepping into the life calling our name. We breathe into the fear, to acknowledge it and expand beyond it. For what is meant for us, is already becoming our next step. Amen**

**Hymn - O Sacred Head Now Wounded ELW #351 vs 1-2**

**Benediction / Blessing** (*responsive*)

P- Go now, knowing this;

**C - Fear is not the end of the story.**

P - We will step forward, even if our voice shakes.

**C - We are already becoming courageous.**

P - Do not wait for certainty.

**C - The path is already rising beneath our feet.**

P - With trembling, and trust

**C - We go forward.**

P - In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Comforter

**C - Amen**

**Sending Hymn - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW #803**

P - Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

C - Thanks Be to God!

**Postlude**