

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Being the Body of Christ

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March 30 2025 9:00 am 4th Sunday of Lent

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

The Prodigal

ZSJ Praise Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Bridge of Hope Video

Stand

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen**

OPENING SONG

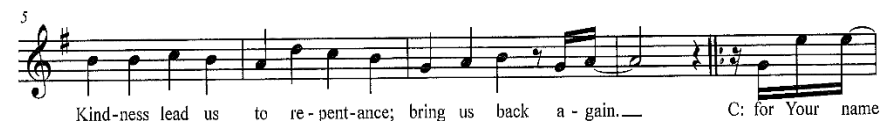
You Are My Vision

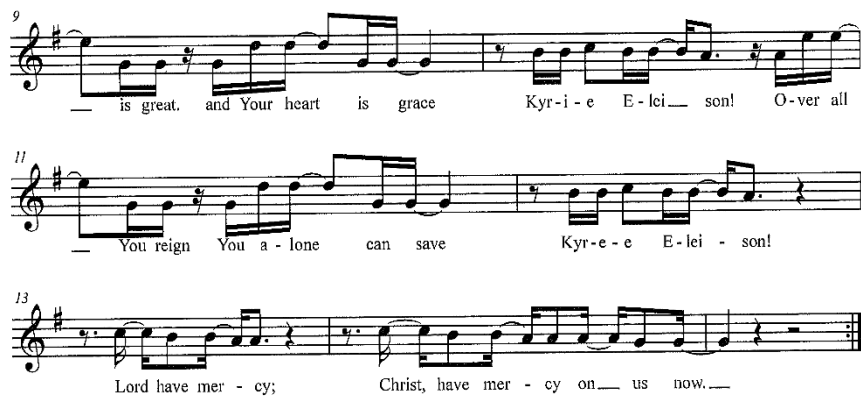
1. You are my vision, O King of my heart
Nothing else satisfies, only you Lord
You are my best thought by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Your presence my light.
2. You are my wisdom, You are my true word;
I ever with You and You with me Lord.
You're my great Father, and I'm Your true son;
You dwell inside me, together, we're one.
3. You are my battle shield, sword for the fight.
You are my dignity, You're my delight.
You're my soul's shelter, and You're my high tower.
Come raise me heavenward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. I don't want riches, or man's empty praise.
You're my inheritance, now and always.
You and You only, the first in my heart;
High King of heaven, my treasure You are.
5. High King of heaven, when victory's won.
May I reach heaven's joy, O bright heav'n's sun.
Heart of my own heart, what ever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

SPECIAL MUSIC

Coming Home

ZSJ Chancel Choir

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on

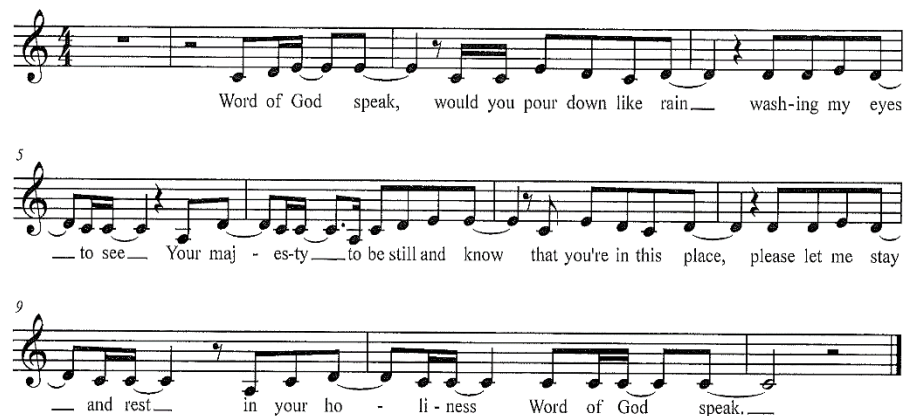
behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.

² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I

have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY *The Prodigal*

1. You held out Your arms, I walked away
Insolent, I spurned Your face
Squandering the gifts You gave to me
Holding close forbidden things
Destitute, a rebel still, a fool in all my pride
The world I once enjoyed is death to me
No joy, no hope, no life
2. Where now are the friends that I had bought
Gone with every penny lost
What hope could there be for such as I
Sold out to a world of lies
Oh to see Your face again, it seems so distant now
Could it be that You would take me back
A servant in Your house
3. You held out Your arms, I see them still
You never left, You never will
Running to embrace me, now I know

Your cords of love will always hold
Mercy’s robe, a ring of grace
Such favor undeserved
You sing over me and celebrate
The rebel now Your child

Stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen**

Sit

OFFERING

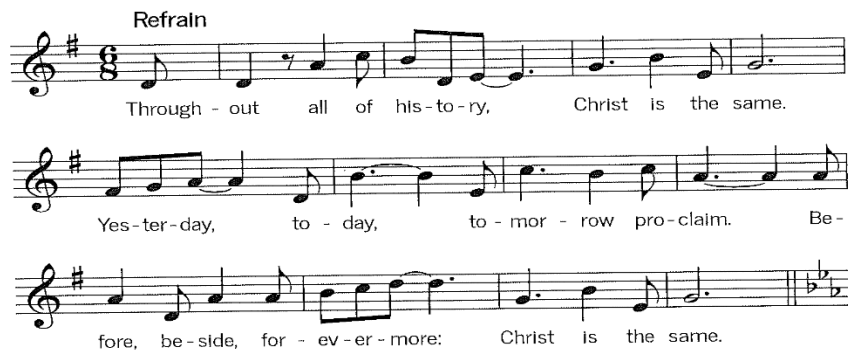
How Beautiful

ZSJ Handbell Choir

Go to www.zionstjohn.org to donate or download
VanCo Mobile app to your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

Christ is the Same



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. Keep us safe in your bountiful love, and deepen our commitment to sharing your treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

BLESSING (2x, praise team, then all; SS children are welcome to join)

The Lord bless you, and keep you.

Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen

SENDING SONG *The Wonderful Cross*

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

2. See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown

Refrain: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me, come and die and find that I may truly live
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace, draw near and bless Your name

3. Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were and offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all. **Refrain (2x)**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

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Stewardship

...we offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us

Our Selves...

Ministers...The Members of Zion St. John Lutheran Church
Music...ZSJ Praise Team Lector...Doreen D
Greeters/ Fellowship...Will & Katy L
Audio/Visual...Scott C and Fred R

Our Time...

March 23...73 LSV...(internet was down) SS...21

And Our Possessions...

March 23...\$3,145.00 SS...\$211.86

...signs of your gracious love