



Zion St. John Lutheran Church

*Being the Body of Christ*

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March 22, 2026 9:00 am 5th Sunday of Lent

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

*I Will Wait for You*

ZSJ Praise Team

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/ TEMPLE TALK** *Lutheran Services of Iowa  
& Church of the Damascus Road*

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen**

**GATHERING SONG**

*Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

1. Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
Breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
To renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;  
Give me faith for what I cannot see;  
Give me passion for Your purity.  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
2. Holy Spirit, come abide within;  
May Your joy be seen in all I do—  
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin  
In each thought and deed and attitude,  
Kindness to the greatest and the least,  
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my striving into works of grace.  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
3. Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
Giving life to all that God has made,  
Show your power once again on earth;  
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.  
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.  
Lead us on the road of sacrifice  
That in unity the face of Christ  
Will be clear for all the world to see.

## 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** (*praise team sings verses, congregation responds with refrain*)

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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**

*Via Dolorosa*

ZSJ Chancel Choir

## FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of God speak, would you pour down like rain— wash-ing my eyes

5  
to see— Your maj - es-ty — to be still and know that you're in this place, please let me stay



## GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

The holy gospel according to St John, the eleventh chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said

to her, “Your brother will rise again.”<sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”<sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”<sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.<sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.<sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.<sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”<sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”<sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY      *Way Maker*

1.      You are here, moving in our midst  
          I worship You, I worship You  
          You are here, working in this place  
          I worship You, I worship You. (2x)

**Refrain:**      Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper  
                  Light in the darkness, my God  
                  That is who You are. (repeat)

2.      You are here, touching every heart  
          I worship You, I worship You  
          You are here, healing every heart  
          I worship You, I worship You

3.      You are here, turning lives around  
          I worship You, I worship You  
          You are here, mending every heart  
          I worship You, I worship You. **Refrain**

4.      That is who You are, That is who You are  
          That is who You are, That is who You are. **Refrain**

5.      Even when I don't see it, You're working  
          Even when I don't feel it, You're working  
          You never stop, You never stop working  
          You never stop, You never stop working. (repeat) **Refrain**

6.      That is who You are, That is who You are  
          That is who You are, That is who You are. **Refrain** (Verse 6)

### *Stand*

### APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by 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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*After each petition* Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING**                      *Days of Elijah*

1. These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days of Your servant, Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days of great trial  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying  
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

**Refrain:** Behold, He comes riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call

Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill, salvation comes

2. And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days of Your servant, David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
Oh, the fields are as white in Your world  
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord. **Refrain**

3. There's no God like Jehovah (8x) **Refrain (2x)**

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY** *Christ is the Same*

Refrain

Through - out all of his - to - ry, Christ is the same.  
Yes - ter - day, to - day, to - mor - row pro - claim. Be -  
fore, be - side, for - ev - er - more; Christ is the same.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign for G major, and a common time signature (C) which is then changed to 6/8. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics. The piece ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B-flat major.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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**                      *My Lighthouse*

1. In my wrestling, in my doubts  
In my failures, You won't walk out  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (repeat)

2. In the silence, You won't let go  
In the questions, Your truth will hold  
Your great love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (repeat)

**Refrain:**            My lighthouse, my lighthouse  
                          Shining in the darkness, I will follow You  
                          My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise  
                          You will carry me safe to shore, Safe to shore  
                          Safe to shore, Safe to shore

3. I won't fear what tomorrow brings  
With each mornin', I'll rise and sing  
My God's love will lead me through  
You are the peace in my troubled sea (repeat) **Refrain**

4. Fire before us, You're the brightest  
You will lead us through the storms (repeat 3x)  
You will carry me safe to shore, Safe to shore  
Safe to shore, Safe to shore

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

## **POSTLUDE**

### **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...Olivia R

Greeters...Tony & Jessica R Fellowship...Holly W

Audio/Visual...Scott C and Fred R

#### **Our Time...**

Mar 11...17 LSV...12 Mar 15 Worship Canceled

#### **And Our Possessions...**

Mar 11...\$875.00 Mar 15 Worship Canceled

**...signs of your gracious love**