***The Fourth Sunday of Lent***

Sunday March 19, 2023 –10:30a.m. +++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

**Receiving Communion** – 5:30p.m. & 8:00a.m.

In preparation, examine yourself by asking these questions:

Am I truly sorry for my sins?

Do I believe I am forgiven because of Jesus’ suffering and death?

Do I believe in the Real Presence of Christ’s Body and Blood in the Sacrament?

Do I desire to be strengthened to live a God-pleasing life, and to forgive others?

This is the faith expressed by the LCMS and those in fellowship with us. Members of LCMS congregations may commune with us. If it is your first time with us, please speak to the pastor before communing.

**Prayers**

For Healing: Blake Wargo, John VanKempen, Betty Zumwalt, Reini Morgan, Melanie Pence, Steve Steelman, Jeff Lutz, JoAnn Fuchs, Florence Collmann, Heath Beccue, Arlene Gerdes, Sara Ballinger, Lydia Cook

Zion Lutheran School

Government Officials and Nation

Military and all First Responders

**LENTEN WORSHIP** All the Wednesdays of March have midweek services at 7:00 p.m. Join us at then, or with our school chapel at 8:30 a.m. Our theme for Lent is “Follow the Lamb.”

**EASTER FLOWER** sign-ups are in the Narthex and in the church mailbox hallway. Flower choices are Hyacinths, Tulips and Lilies. The price is $14.00. Please fill the envelope out completely returning with your payment. Payments can be placed in the basket above the church mailboxes, or given to the church office. Checks can be made payable to Zion Ladies Aid.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**: If you have Thrivent products, please check to see if you have $$ to allocate. This needs to be done by 3/31, or Thrivent will choose an organization for you. It does not affect your savings in any way. Every penny matters! Thanks for sharing yours!   If you need help, please contact Sharon Cordani at 217-246-2429.

**HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE**

Senior Communion Service Saturday April 1st 11:00 a.m.

Palm/Passion Sunday Saturday April 1st 5:30 p.m.

Sunday April 2nd 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Thursday April 6th 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Friday April 7th 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Saturday April 8th 5:30 p.m.

Sunrise Service Sunday April 9th 6:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Sunday April 9th 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**WELCOME**

**HYMN** *“Here I am to Worship”*

1) Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You. Hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.

You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

2) King of all days, so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above

Humbly You came in the earth You created, All for love’s sake became poor.

Chorus

Bridge:

I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

I’ll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. Repeat

Chorus Sung 3 times

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You’re my God.

“Here I am to Worship” written by Tim Hughes Copyright 2000 Thankyou Music. Used by permission CCLI 592081

**INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES**

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

P: Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

**C: Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!  
Let Your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, Your salvation according to Your promise.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

**C: Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**

P: God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

**C: Amen.**

**INTROIT**

My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:**

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;**

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**KYRIE** “Have Mercy on Your People, Lord”

Have mercy on Your people, Lord.  
Have mercy, Christ, our King.  
Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;  
Accept the prayers we bring.

Text: Dorothy Hoyer Scharlemann, 1912–2002. Copyright © 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.  
Faithful God, whose grace attends us all our days, look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps into pathways of peace and lead us to discover all that is good and right and true. Preserve us in Your righteousness and at last bring us to Your eternal kingdom where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 42:14–21*

14For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. 15I will lay waste mountains and hills,

and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

16And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. 17They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images,

“You are our gods.” 18Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 19Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? 20He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. 21The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 5:8–14*

8for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 9:1–7, 13-17, 34-39*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

1As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud 7and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. 13They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” 34They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. 35Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” 37Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” 38He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Open the Eyes of My Heart”*

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You, I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your pow’r and love as we sing, “Holy, holy, holy.”

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You, I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.

Pour out Your pow’r and love as we sing, “Holy, holy, holy.”

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy I want to see You.

“Open the Eyes of My Heart” written by Paul Baloche. Copyright 1997 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music Used by permission CCLI 592081

**SERMON** “Lost > Found; Blind > See; Dead > Alive” (John 9:39)

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** AGPS 63 *“Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound”*

1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but

now am found, Was blind but now I see!

2 The Lord has promised good to me, His

Word my hope secures; He will my shield and

portion be As long as life ensures.

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I

have already come; His has brought me

safe so far, His grace will see me home.

4 Yes, when this flash and heart shall fail And

mortal life shall cease, Amazing grace shall

then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

**CREED** *Apostles’ Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *LSB*, p. 215

P: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.  
God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [*name(s)*] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence;  
 and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
 and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

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**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**C:** **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.**

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN**  *“Shine Jesus Shine”*

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness shining;

Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,

Set us free by the truth You now bring us,

Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus:

Shine, Jesus, shine fill this land with the Father's glory;

Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;

Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,

From the shadows into Your radiance;

By the blood I may enter Your brightness,

Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,

Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

3. As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,

So our faces display Your likeness;

Ever changing from glory to glory,

Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,

Shine on me, shine on me. Chorus Repeat Chorus

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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**SERVING US THIS WEEKEND**

**Pastor - Rev. Fred Kraemer Organist –** Ernie Thomack

**Elders** – 5:30 – Doug Martin 8:00 – David Brakenbush & Gary Meyers 10:30 – Paul Frerichs

**Last Week’s Attendance** – 5:30 p.m. - 45 8:00 a.m. - 117 10:30 a.m. – 60

**Midweek’s Attendance** -

**Plate Offering** – $7,438.00 **E-Giving** - $1,387.61

**Upcoming Events***:*

Tuesday, March 21 – ***Sewing Circle*** *–* 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, March 22 – ***School Chapel*** – 8:30 a.m.

***Festival Bells***– 5:45 p.m.

***Meal*** – 5:30 p.m.

***Confirmation***– 6:00 p.m.

***Midweek Lent Service*** – 7:00p.m.

***Adult Choir*** – 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, March 23 – ***Berean Bible Class*** – 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, March 24- ***Worship – Traditional***– 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 25 – ***Worship – Traditional***– 8:00 a.m.

***Bible Study*** – 9:15 a.m.

***Worship – Traditional(comm) -*** 10:30 a.m.

**SAUSAGE DINNER** (3/26) is coming up quickly!  There is a need for desserts. There’s a sign-up sheet on the table near the mailboxes, or if it’s easier, you can call Becky Helgen at  217-246-2456.

**PORTAL OF PRAYERS** are in church mailboxes and on the tables in the Narthex and by church mailboxes.

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE**

Psalm 142:5 – “I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’” The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.