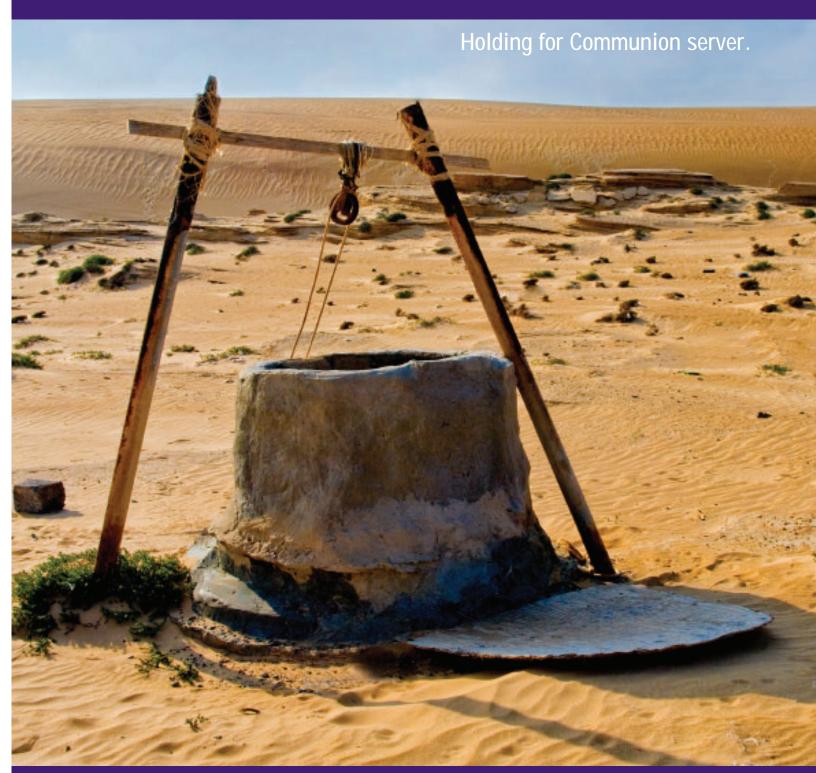
March 12, 2023 • Third Sunday in Lent 9:00 and 11:30am





WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type.**

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent begins with the ashes of Ash Wednesday and extends until Holy Week (the week before Easter). Traditionally, Lent is a time of greater self-examination and repentance for one's sins. In our sinfulness, we also remember that we are dust and will return to dust again.

Even as our worship becomes more somber during this season, we continually remember God's mercy, which is everlasting. We confess our sins; God forgives them. We come to God's table; God feeds us. We are never far from the Lord's presence with us, and his love remains forever.

ON THE COVER

Old well, Morocco, Saharan Desert. Licensed via iStock.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

Guide Me, O Lord by Christie Anderson

Sandy Musk, Piano Sarah Juhasz, Handbells

WELCOME

Please rise, as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ♥ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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 we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of word and sacrament in the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \maltese Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

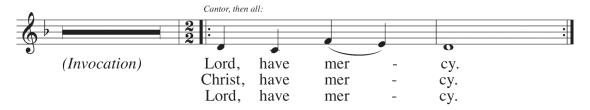
GATHERING HYMN Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



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



Music: Missa Pacem, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

9:00 CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.



Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © 1984 Hope Publishing Company Music (DARWALL'S 148TH 6.6.6.6.4.4.4.4): John Darwall (1731-1789), 1770, P.D.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-42

Woman at the Well Spark Children's Bible Page 420

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samari-

tans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

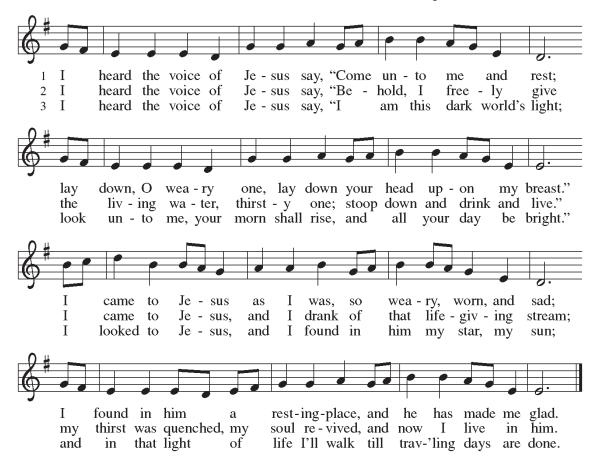
³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please rise, as you are able.





Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the 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, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

*catholic: universal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition is spoken; please respond as directed by singing:



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We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit ZionSA.org. Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

Lenten Medley by Christie Anderson

Sandy Musk, Piano Sarah Juhasz, Handbells

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Text: ICEL, © 2010 Music: *Missa Pacem*, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

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

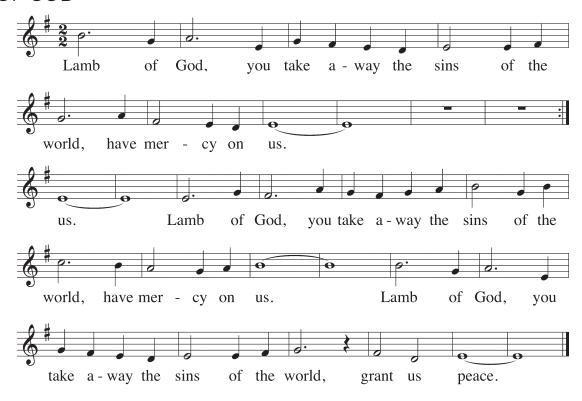
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

LAMB OF GOD



Music: $Missa\ Pacem$, L. Randolph Babin, © 2004, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION HYMN Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, in this meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ₱ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN on next page

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Upon the Cross Extended, by Johann Walther

Sandy Musk

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

SENDING HYMN Guide Me Every, Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Worship Support

March Altar Guild Randalyn Nickel Eileen and Mel Berg, Sharon Meade Karen Umlang, Susan Wright

> Bread Offering Karen Umlang

Lay Readers 9:00 Jim Chillstrom 11:30 Joe Noonan

Communion Servers
9:00
Linda Hoffman, Jim Chillstrom
11:30
Suzi Lockamy, Alyssa Brodbeck

Livestream Steve Johnson David Umlang

Sound Scott Van Doren

March Ushers
9:00
Shannon and Gus Rios
Mary Jo and Paul Goldenbaum
Carolyn Pfeiffer

11:30
Pam Gammage, Caleb DeHart
Kim and Mike DeHart
Brandon Dubuisson, Chris Berg

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for this month's calendar

Exercise Group Dorcas Circle Executive Committee Council Mtg Handbell Choir Warriors Anonymous Wednesday, March 15 Crafty Bunch Midweek Lenten Worship Services AA - Alcoholics Anonymous Al-Anon Meeting Thursday, March 16 Quilting for Lutheran World Relief Weight Watchers Mtg Book Study with Pr Kathi Fiesta Flutes Stephen Ministry Training Fiday, March 17 Funeral: Ruth Lampman Pam Church 2 Church 1/Chapel Church 1/Chapel P:30 Fellowship Hall P:30 Fellowship Hall P:30 Fellowship Hall P:30 Church 2 Fellowship Hall Fiesta Flutes Fiesta Flut	ZION	1) - 34(42)	I.
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	Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

The Sound of Music, April 21, 22, 23 28, 29, 30

Show only seats Adults\$15 Child < 11\$10

Scan this QR code or use the button link at the bottom of Zion's webpage, zionsa.org. Choose your seating, set up an account in Book Tix, and pay with a credit card. Call the church office if you need help.



Book Tix

Sammy will be back in the gazebo on

March 26, April 2 and April 16 for in-person sales. All dinner seating is sold out.

Midweek Worship in Lent

1:00pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Afternoon and evening Lenten worship services in Zion's historic chapel. Holy Communion, every Wednesday in Zion's historic chapel.

Zion Zippers Tomorrow, March 13

Come and join the Zion Zippers at 6:00pm on March 13 for a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish or two to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too! Zippers meet on the second Monday.

After dinner, hang around for a presentation about the Water to Thrive program, bringing clean water to rural African communities in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda. W2T's mission is to transform the lives of these rural residents, and ensure their right to water that is safe and accessible.

The April Zion Zippers meeting will be on the *first* Monday, April 3. Entertainment features the Fire on the Mountain Cloggers.

Sunday Faith Formation

No Children or Youth classes on March 12, Spring Break

Children

Music Opening in MC 1 at 10:15. Children age three years and older meet in the Ministry Center Room 1 for opening music with Ms. Sammy, then go to classrooms.

Youth Classes

Grade 5-7	MC Room 5
Grade 8-9	MC Room 7
Grade 10-12	MC Room 8

Adult Classes

Week Ahead Bible Study

10:15 at with Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall. Take a look at the lessons we have in worship each week. What's their context? How do we make sense of them as 21st century Christians?

Habits of the Household

No class today, Spring Break
Led by Pastor Dan at 10:15 in MC 1,
through March 26. Adult forum
based on the book of the same name,
on practicing the story of God in
everyday family rhythms. Presentations and small group discussions
on waking, mealtimes, work, play,
conversation, bedtime and more.
No class March 12.

Your generosity empowers Zion's ministry.

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



Music Rehearsals

No Children, Youth or Chancel Choir rehearsals March 14-15

Handbells Tues 6:30 Balcony

Children (Gr 2-5) Tues 7-7:45 MC Rm 1

Resumes March 21

Youth (Gr 6-12) Tues 7-8pm Music Apse Resumes March 21

Chancel (Adult) Wed 7:15 Sanctuary Resumes March 22

Give Help to Earthquake Relief Efforts

On February 6, powerful earthquakes hit the region of southern Turkey and northern Syria. Thousands have died; many others have been injured and displaced. Lutheran Disaster Response is already working with partners in the area to provide disaster relief to those impacted. Please support these relief efforts by visiting ELCA.org (or scan QR) to donate or call 800-638-3522.

Pastor Kathi's Zoom Book Study

Pastor Kathi's book study group is covering: Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded. Written by Vietnamese immigrant Phuc Luu, we will examine Christian theology from the perspective of the Eastern church. Meet via Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7:00 to 8pm.



Email Pastor Kathi (kjohnson@zionsa.org) for more info or to sign up. The book is available on Amazon or at Bookshop.org.

Women of Zion

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.



WOZ@zionsa.org

March WOZ Events

- Tue Mar 14 WOZ Bible Study & More. 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall
- Sun Mar 19 National Quilt Day observance, with a display of Lutheran World Relief Quilts in the gazebo
- Tue Mar 21* Trip to Kerrville's *Coming King Scripture*Prayer Gardens. Leave Zion at 9am and arrive at the
 Gardens 10am. Lunch at Cafe at the Ridge Bakery, Gift &
 Garden Shop, 11:30-1pm, and arrive back at Zion by 2:30.

 Please RSVP by Sunday, March 19; scan the QR above or
 email WOZ@zionsa.org.

 *Rain Date Mar 28



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, March 20 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Youth Night March 23

Middle & High School Dinner and Fellowship 6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

On the second and fourth Thursdays, Zion's high school and middle school youth meet to enhance their impact on their community, collectively -- with service projects, Bible discussion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and something else fun -- to build a community on

mission.

Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have enough food and supplies!

CONTACT



zionsa.org



zionsa



@zionsatx



zion@zionsa.org



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm Friday close at 3:00pm

STAFF DAYS OFF Pastor Kathi - Monday

Pastor Kathi - Monday kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday theatre@zionsa.org

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MARCH 12, 2023 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



God changes enemies into followers.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 4:5-42	Jesus and the woman at the well
Monday	Exodus 17:1-7	The Lord gives water from a rock
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-11	Right with God
Wednesday	Matthew 5:43-48	Love for enemies
Thursday	1 Samuel 24:1-15	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Romans 12:14-21	Rules for Christian living
Saturday	Psalm 95	Call to worship
Sunday	John 9:1-41	The man born blind

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Romans 5:10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Reconciling God, we thank you for reuniting us with you and with all the people of the world through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

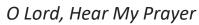
Dear God, give us thankful hearts for this meal. We pray for all to have enough to eat for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1)



MARCH 12, 2023 HYMN OF THE WEEK







Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What characteristics do you look for in a friend? When is a time you felt you were an outsider?
- How does God's care for you feel a bit surprising, even when you know you have done something wrong?



Read: John 4:5-42.

In John 3, Jesus speaks to Nicodemus who is a male, a Pharisee, and a Jewish insider. In John 4, Jesus speaks to someone (by contrast), who is a woman, a Samaritan, and an outsider in her own community. For a Jew, a Samaritan is an enemy worthy of being excluded, but Jesus expands God's reconciling work by speaking to a Samaritan woman who is a community outsider. Jesus gives a visible example of what John 3:16 means for the church. God's love for the world brings unlikely disciples into the church who witness to Jesus. Jesus' followers are to have a real relationship to him as Savior. (The Samaritans are the only ones in John's Gospel who call Jesus "Savior.") The follower's relationship includes reaching out to others with the love of Jesus. The woman tells the people to "Come and see" Jesus (John 4:29). They do and respond that "we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world" (v. 42). The woman witnesses to Jesus so others may know him as Savior.

Discuss: How do you reach out to others with the love of Jesus?

Pray: Lord God, help us to see Jesus as the Savior of the world and to see our neighbor as worthy of your love. Help us to show your love to our neighbors. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you reach out to someone who seems to be an outsider in the community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Lent is a period of forty days when we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare for Easter. Almsgiving is the tradition or practice of giving money or food to those in need. This week think or talk about the homeless and their needs. Add a donation for the homeless to the Almsgiving Box placed in your home. The collected money is to be donated at the end of Lent. Pray: Loving God, we often forget about the needs of others. Help us to think of the homeless and how we can help fulfill their needs. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

