

February 25, 2024 • Second Sunday in Lent
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion  *lutheran
church*

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.

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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You
setting by Paul Manz

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

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 ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Section end. Section end.

GATHERING HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

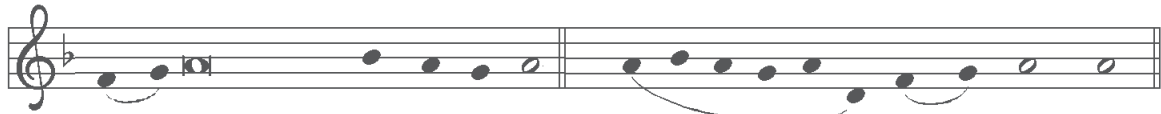
Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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GREETING

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.
 A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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.

Section Ends

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

Abraham and Sarah's Visitors
Spark Children's Bible Page 34

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

PSALM 22

Refrain

Mark Mummert

The musical notation is for a refrain in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) is marked with a '3' above it. This is followed by a quarter note G4 and a quarter note F4. The second staff continues with a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note C4. A triplet of eighth notes (E4, D4, C4) is marked with a '3' above it. This is followed by a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note G3. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.
For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
Neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the Lord hears them. *Refrain.*

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the Lord give praise!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
All the families of nations shall bow before God.
For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. *Refrain.*

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
All who go down to the dust, thought they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.
Their descendants shall serve the Lord
Whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
Saying to them, "The Lord has acted!" *Refrain.*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:13-25

[Paul writes], ¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MARK 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me?



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, n. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish Traditional
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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 ends: God of mercy,

Please respond:

hear our prayer.

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		
9:00	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk With Me</i> African American Spiritual	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>This is My Prayer</i> by Gwyneth Walker	Amy Mikulski, Soloist

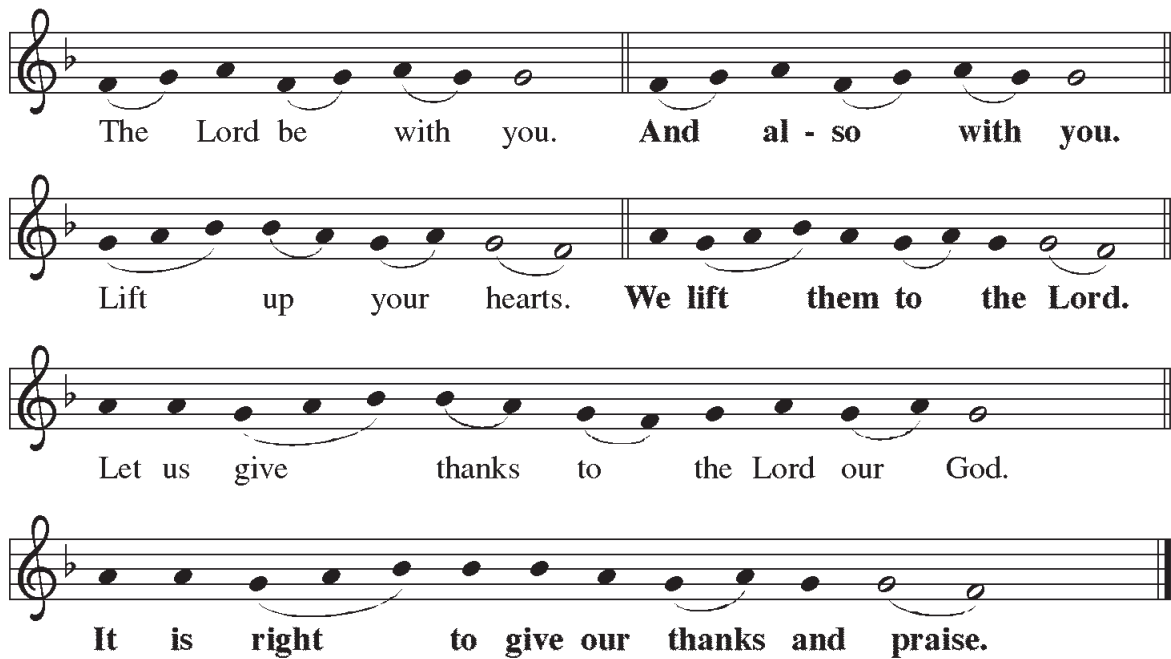
Please rise, as you are able.

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.

[Next page](#)

GREAT THANKSGIVING



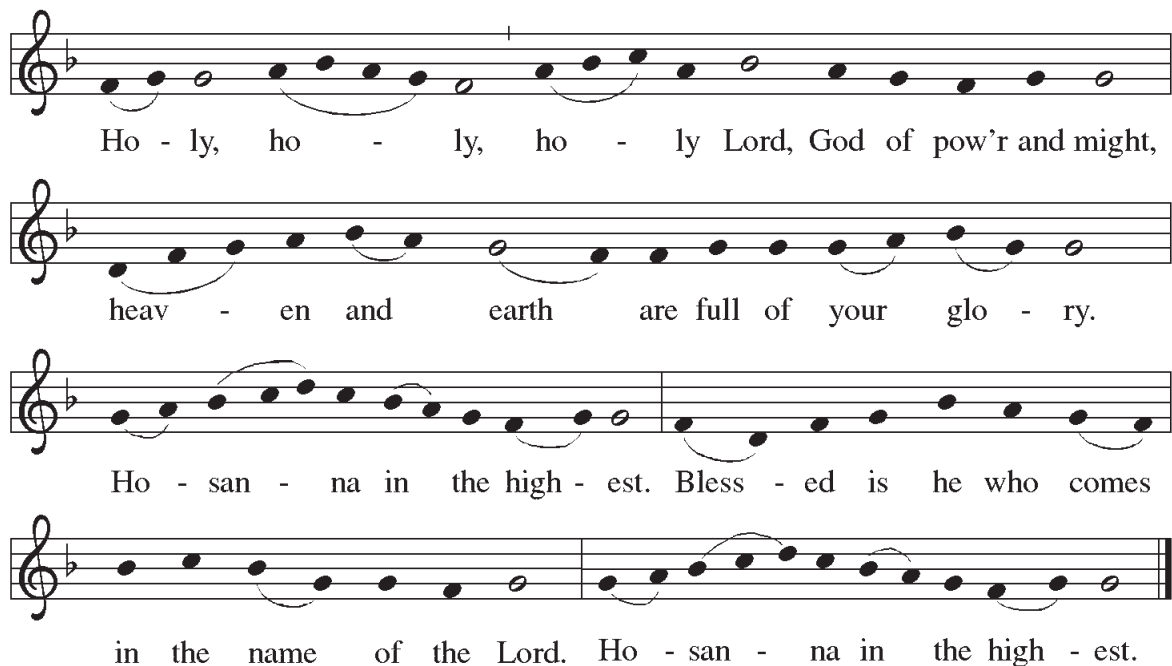
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

Remember Me
by Stephen Andrews and Aaron Adams

Children's Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

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. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Section end

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Grand plein Jeu
by Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

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.

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Scan QR code for this month's calendar



Sunday, February 25

Pancake Breakfast Today	8am-11:30	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Adults: Beautiful, Terrible Lent	10:15	MC 6
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Monday, February 26

Bunco	1pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, February 27

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Staff Meeting	11am	Break Room
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
<i>No Children's or Youth Choirs today</i>		
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, February 28

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Chapel (Church 1)
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	Church 2 <i>this week</i>
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FH <i>this week</i>
<i>No Chancel Choir today</i>		

Thursday, February 29

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

Saturday, March 2

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
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Sunday, March 3

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Coffee Talk with the Council	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
Adults: Beautiful, Terrible Lent	10:15	MC 6
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Carolyn Thronson, Mary Ann Schmitt
Carrie Schmitzer, Amy Swanson
Gina Williams, Cathy Jarred
Susan Johns

Lay Reader

9:00 Kristyn Bova
11:30 Betty Parker

Cantor

Amy Mikulski

Communion Servers

9:00 Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell
11:30 Chris & Don Jones

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

Ushers

9:00 Jake Apodaca
Bill and Mary Ann Schmitt
Matt Murray
Irvin Moss
11:30 Pam Gammage, Chris Berg

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm
in Church 1

Simple communion worship services
in Zion's historic chapel.

Sunday Faith Formation for Children and Youth at 10:15

Meet in Ministry Center classrooms.

<i>Age or Grade</i>	<i>Room</i>
Two Years–Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1–4	MC-4
Grades 5–7	MC-5
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8–9	MC-7
High School Grades 10–12	MC-8

Music Rehearsals

Handbells		
Tuesday	6:30	Balcony
Children's (Gr 2-5)		
Tuesday	7-7:45	MC Rm 1
Youth (Gr 6-12)		
Tuesday	7-8pm	Apse
Chancel (Adult)		
Wednesday	7:15	Sanctuary

Pancake Breakfast TODAY in the Fellowship Hall until 11:30am

Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion host a pancake feast to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the German-European version of Fat Tuesday. In addition to regular and gluten-free pancakes, the menu includes sausage, fruit, coffee and juice. The free-will offering benefits Habitat for Humanity. Serving begins at 8:00 and ends at 11:30.



☞ Coffee Talk ☜ Next Sunday, March 3 at 10:20

Join Congregational Treasurer Allen Cockrell and other council members for a Coffee Talk in the Fellowship Hall.

The Coffee Talk series will cover a variety of topics throughout the Sundays in March:

- March 10 with Pastor Bill Swantner, Master Gardener, who will discuss native planting, and what he's working on around Zion's campus.
- March 17 with Dan Graham, discussing financial scams and how to avoid fraud.

Adult Class

Sundays in Lent: *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent*
10:15 in MC Room 6



Lenten devotional and discussion group, based on a resource by Kate Bowler. "Lent is full of hard truths. And it is a perfect moment for spiritual honesty. We can look on this tragicomedy with love and bemusement as we wait for the someday that will be God's promised future. There, God's kingdom comes. God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And in the meantime, there's this...our beautiful, terrible days."

- Use this QR (katebowler.com) to sign up for free daily Lenten e-mails.
- Come to MC-6 for Sunday morning discussions during the 10:15 Faith Formation hour.



Lenten Food and Toiletry Drive for St. Vincent de Paul of Helotes

Zion will collect canned goods and toiletries for St. Vincent de Paul of Helotes (formerly Helotes House of Neighborly Service). Items will be collected throughout the six weeks of Lent, through March 24. Look for the collection baskets in the narthex and the gazebo.

Zion Bunco Group

Monday, February 26 1:00pm

Zion Bunco Group will meet for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. For info contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer through the church office.

Dinner Out at Ilsong Garden Korean BBQ

Thursday, March 7 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet this month at Ilsong Garden Korean BBQ, 6905 Blanco Road, just inside Loop 410. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by March 4 to Jim or Sandy Chillstrom; call the church office if you need their contact info.



A Night on Broadway Musical Revue

March 1-3 and 8-10

2:30 and 7:30 performances in Zion's Family Life Center

- Regular theatre seating tickets are on sale at [ZTG.booktix.net](https://www.ztgbooktix.net) (QR below). Adults \$15, children (11 and under) are \$10.
- Dinner seating is completely sold out.



STAFF CONTACT

Day Off

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Monday

Senior Pastor

kjohnson@ZionSA.org

Pastor Dan Heim

Friday

Pastor, Youth & Family

dheim@ZionSA.org

Suzie Wyatt,

Thursday

Administrator

afternoon

swyatt@ZionSA.org

Rob Mikulski,

Monday

Music Director

rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Sammy Mikulski,

Monday

Theatre Director

theatre@ZionSA.org

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Bud Halstead

President

Allen Cockrell

Treasurer

Chris Jones

Vice President

Erica Macha

Secretary

David Umlang

At Large

Rachel Williams

At Large

Shiloh Love

At Large

Pr. Kathi Johnson

Senior Pastor

Pr. Dan Heim

Pastor

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@zionsa.org



Website zionsa.org



Facebook zionsa



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Call Process Update

for our Associate Pastor

Zion's Council has submitted the approved Ministry Site Profile that will be seen by potential candidates to fill our vacant Associate Pastor position. We look forward to moving ahead with the call process.

In peace,

Bud Halstead, Council President

Pastor Kathi Johnson, Senior Pastor



MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday, March 6 in MC Room

Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents. Monthly meetings are in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon as scheduled below. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care.

Scan the QR to contact Nicole Stender (mops@zionsa.org) to register, volunteer or get more info! 2024
Spring Meetings: April 17, May 14



**June 17-21
and/or
June 24-28**

Youth-led day-camp for Kin-

dergarten through grade 7 in Fall '24. Hands-on activities with the Bible, worship, art, STEM, games, drama, snacks and more. Disciple Campers (6th & 7th graders) have off-site service and learning projects with our mission partner, Nichols Elementary School.

\$125 first camper, \$115 for each additional sibling. Before/after care \$25 per week. Register with QR. Scholarships available.



Pastor's Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

What are the blessings of this life for you? I've been reflecting on this question lately, and there are many I can name. One of the biggest blessings of my life is this congregation and serving here now as Senior Pastor.

One of my priorities going into 2024 is exploring ways we can better care for those in need. To that end, I am thrilled to announce that one of our newer members, Pastor Eileen Spehr, has agreed to serve as our Visitation Pastor. Pastor Eileen comes to us with a breadth of experience and loves the work of visitation ministry. She will begin making visits soon. She is a kind and loving soul, and is a wonderful addition to our ministry here at Zion.

Pastor Eileen will be with us all morning today (February 25) - she and husband, Paul, usually attend the 11:30 service - so please try to greet her if you're able to. I'm grateful for her willingness to serve in this role.

In peace, and with gratitude,
PrK



Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministers Are Care-Givers,
God Is the Cure-Giver.

The role of a Stephen

Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with LeShea Clabough, our Stephen Ministry Leader. Get her contact information from the church office, 210-688-3090, or email her directly using this QR.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Bible 101: Bible Studies from a Lutheran Perspective
Led by Pastor Eileen Spehr on Thursdays. Current series is on March 14 and 28, and April 11 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Series will continue with new topics.

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT**



From despair to praise, God is with us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death
Monday	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Sign of the covenant
Tuesday	Romans 4:13-25	God's promise
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Thursday	Psalms 63	Comfort in God's power
Friday	Ezekiel 36:21-28	God will make God's people clean
Saturday	Psalms 22:23-31	Suffering and praise
Sunday	John 2:13-22	Jesus cleanses the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*From you [God] comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. **Psalm 22:25-26a (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, we thank you for bringing us into your kingdom that is like no other, a power and rule filled with love and hope through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this food, a gift of love that gives us strength to praise you for your faithfulness to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life in Christ give you hope.



FEBRUARY 25, 2024

HYMN OF THE WEEK



Come, All You People

taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



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:

- Think or tell about a time you or someone you know felt rejected or in despair.
- Do you believe that God can help us overcome pain? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 22:23-31 and Mark 8:31-38.

Psalm 22 begins, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me”* (v. 1). The psalmist, in verses 23-31, then utters praise with a new understanding of his/her life and identity in the presence of God. Jesus calls us to give up any self-identity that is not grounded in God through Jesus when he says, *“let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”* (Mark 8:34b). Psalm 22 expresses a similar point. We, ourselves, are not defined by our hurts, suffering, or disappointments, but by God. There is a move from despair to praise after recognizing that God has not left the psalmist (or us) in pain. What defines us is the God who delivers us and frees us through Christ. In Psalm 22, God’s power and glory reaches the ends of the earth, even the dead and those unborn (vv. 29-31). Like the psalmist in Psalm 22, Peter in Mark 8:33 experiences rejection, but we know that one day he will join in the praise expressed at the end of this psalm. A life of praise to God and God’s ways will change Peter just as it changed the psalmist and just as it changes us.

Discuss: How does God’s power lead us from rejection to praise?

Pray: **Life-changing God, help us to see your glory at work in the world and to trust that in Jesus Christ your kingdom has come to put an end to all evil and suffering. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone who is going through a difficult time?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The cross is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith. It reminds us Jesus died that we may live with God forever and is a reminder of a way of life for Jesus’ followers. Light two candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross being used for Lent. Sit in silence for a moment while looking at the cross.

Then pray: **Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org