Third Sunday in Lent - March 23, 2025

Ezekiel 33:7-20 NIV

7"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 8 When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. 9 But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

10 "Son of man, say to the Israelites, 'This is what you are saying: "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?" '11 Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?'

12"Therefore, son of man, say to your people, 'If someone who is righteous disobeys, that person's former righteousness will count for nothing. And if someone who is wicked repents, that person's former wickedness will not bring condemnation. The righteous person who sins will not be allowed to live even though they were formerly righteous.' 13 If I tell a righteous person that they will surely live, but then they trust in their righteousness and do evil, none of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered; they will die for the evil they have done. 14 And if I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' but they then turn away from their sin and do what is just and right - 15 if they give back what they took in pledge for a loan, return what they have stolen, follow the decrees that give life, and do no evil - that person will surely live; they will not die. 16 None of the sins that person has committed will be remembered against them. They have done what is just and right; they will surely live.

¹⁷ "Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But it is their way that is not just. ¹⁸ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, they will die for it. ¹⁹ And if a wicked person turns away from their wickedness and does what is just and right, they will live by doing so. ²⁰ Yet you Israelites say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' But I will judge each of you according to your own ways."

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1 Corinthians 10:1-13 NIV

¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all

ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

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Luke 13:1-9 NIV

¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

⁸"Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

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ZION Lutheran Church

2122 Bronson Blvd Kalamazoo, MI 269.382.2360 zionkazoo.org Youtube OR



FRIENDS OF JESUS Preschool

Senior Pastor Mike Saylor

Director of Christian Ed Aaron Grube

Preschool Director
Jen LaPorte

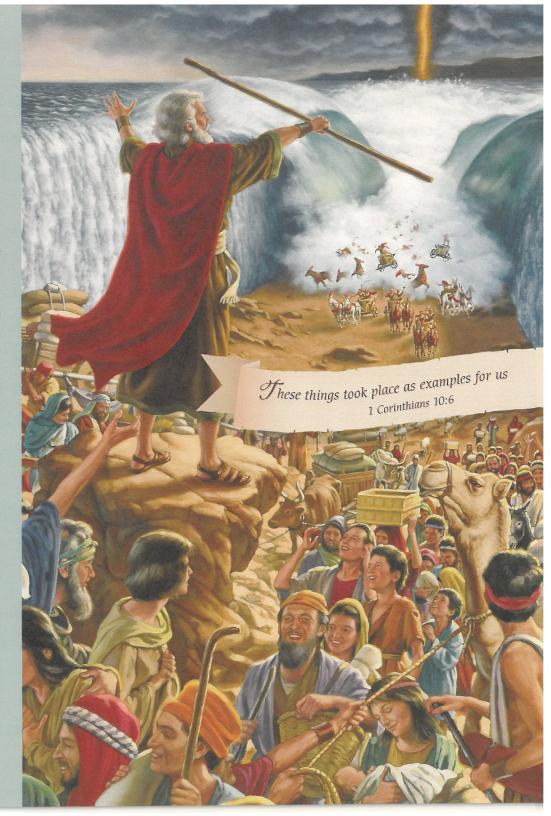
Office Administrator Brenna Harrington

Saturday Worship 5:30pm

Sunday Worship 8:00am and 10:30am

Sunday School and Bible Study 9:15am

Radio Broadcast Sunday @ 9:30am WKZO AM 590 106.9 FM





POSTLUDE

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Choral Anthem: "The Lamb" by G.P. Coleman. ©1987 MorningStar Music Publishers.

Prelude: "He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him" by J.S. Bach. ©1933 Oliver Ditson Company.

Offering: "You Are the Way, to You Alone" by A. Lovelace. ©1989 Concordia Publishing House.

Postlude: "Fanfare" by R. Otterstadt. @1966 Augsburg Publishing House.

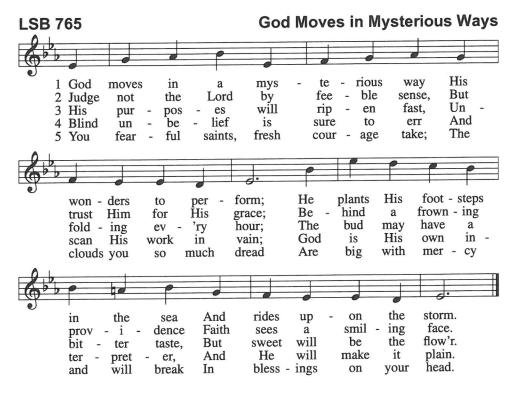
9

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

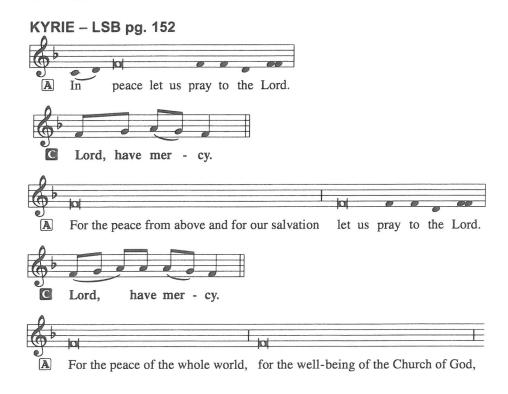
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His one Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.





SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Reading

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

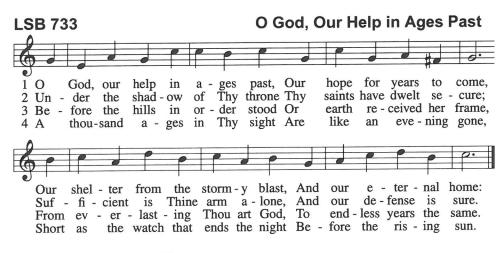
Choral Anthem: "The Lamb" by G.P. Coleman.

Gospel Reading

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



- Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.
- O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

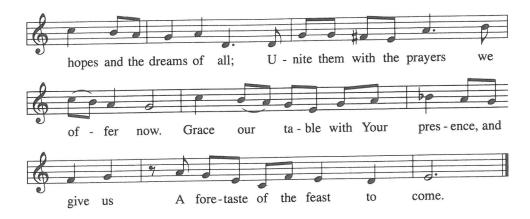
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING





PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Almighty God, You order and number our days according to Your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts, lest we perish with this world of violence and suffering. Let us hold fast to Christ for life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Merciful Lord, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message. Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of all, You establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by Your Law, which is for all. Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Faithful God, protect us when we are tempted. Guard us especially from pride that justifies sin and from doubting that You provide the way of escape. Strengthen us with penitent hearts to endure until You deliver us. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy God, remember Your people who cry to You for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, [especially ______,] and strengthen them to look to You for help in their time of affliction. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience, and grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

About the Cover: Ancient Israel repeatedly grumbled in the wilderness. Nevertheless, the Lord rescued the Israelites through the Red Sea and continued to provide for them as He led them to the Promised Land. In our epistle, Paul tells us that these events serve as examples for us to hold fast to our merciful Lord, who does not abandon us. There is no temptation so great that our Lord cannot overcome it. He provides the way out because He has already won the victory by His cross.

WELCOME to Zion! May God bless your time with us today!

- Children are welcome in worship! Should parents need quiet time for their child, please utilize the Gathering Place behind rear of sanctuary. There you will find comfortable seating and a broadcast of the worship service.
- Baby changing tables are located in both restrooms.
- As a baptized Christian who believes in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion and the forgiveness this gift offers, you are invited to join in this sacred meal.
- For those unable to consume alcohol, red grape juice is available in the center cups of the communion trays.

CHURCH STAFF

Mike Saylo
Aaron Grube
Jen LaPorte
Mark Couch
Tim Seebe
Savannah Engelde
Jack Engelde
Cody Collmenter
Brenna Harringtor

Zion Lutheran Church | 2122 Bronson Blvd Kalamazoo MI 49008 | 269.382.2360



TODAY	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Early Service Sunday School Late Service
Tue March 25	10:00am 7:00pm	Pastor Brelje's Bible Study Handbell Practice
Wed March 26	9:00am 12:00pm 5:15pm 5:45pm 6:30pm	Sewing Guild Midweek Lenten Worship Midweek Dinner Midweek Kids and Confirmation Midweek Lenten Worship
Thur March 27	7:00pm	Choir Practice
Sat March 29	8:00am 5:30pm	Pastor Tim's Men's Zoom Bible Study Worship with Communion
Sun March 30	8:00am 10:30am	Early Service with Communion Late Service with Communion

SYMBOL IN THE WINDOW: There are 3,600 pieces of glass in our window. Apart from the gold, all the glass came from Europe. The glass varies in thickness from 1/8 inch to 2 inches. This variance in thickness determines the density of color. There are 22 shades of blue, which causes the window to have a constantly changing effect upon the eye. It is generally felt the window is most impressive in the early evening hours.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader		Pastor Mike Saylor
Organist		Roxanne Nieboer
Ushers	8am – Matt Simmons	10:30am – Dan Buchtrup
	Ron Hoffman	Dave Alsvig
		Chuck Wendling
Acolytes	8am – Zoe Tinigin	10:30am – Blake Scheffler
Cantor	8am – Vicki Holt	10:30am – Danielle Field
Lector	8am – Carol Daenzer	10:30am – Alice Tomer