

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

May 4, 2025 at 9:15am

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



ELCA

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

arr. By Mark Hayes

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ✝ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit’s power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” Red Hymnal #857

“Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I’m so glad you’re in my life.
I’m so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way.
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.
Lord, I lift your name on high.

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 (*Kyrie eleison means “Lord, have mercy”*) Red Hymnal #152



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.



1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - jice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING ACTS 9:1-20

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like

scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

² **O LORD my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful;
give thanks in holy remembrance.**

⁵ God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt secure, I said,
“I shall never be disturbed.**

⁷ You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to you, O LORD;
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**

⁹ “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?”

¹⁰ **Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me;
O LORD, be my helper.”**

¹¹ You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Should We Go"

Red Hymnal pg #171



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -



lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to

him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG "You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore"
Red Hymnal #817

1 You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.

Refrain: Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.

2 You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain*

3 You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain*

4 You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING "I Will Rise" by Chris Tomlin Zion Combo

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.
You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.



TABLE BLESSING

“You Are Holy”

Red Hymnal #525

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from
the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward
those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare
us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS

“Let Us Break Bread Together” Red Hymnal #471

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

“Here Is Bread” Red Hymnal #438

Here is bread, here is wine; Christ is with us, he is with us
Break the bread, drink the wine; Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace; Christ is with us, he is with us
Know his grace, find his peace; Feast on Jesus here

*Refrain: In this bread there is healing In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here*

Here we are, joined in one Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes, Jesus crucified

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG "We Are Marching In The Light of God" Red Hymnal #866

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing . . .

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "We Are Marching In The Light of God"

WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Assisting Minister Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama
 Communion Asst. Janice Forrest
 Fellowship: Multicultural Team in honor of
 Cinco de Mayo
 Media: Cameron Kellermann
 Music: Jodi Beach
 Jim McDowell-Bass, Tom Mark-Drums
 Readers: Deb Raymond
 Sound: Deangelo Brunson
 Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please talk with Pastor or let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of May we are requesting donations of **Canned Fruit** for distribution at the Cornucopia Food Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. -Thanks so much!
 The WOZ board

Alzheimer's of Northern Illinois

Presented by Aileen Zei

Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body

May 18, 2025 at 10:30am



Katie's CUP

GOLF OUTING

Wednesday, May 21

7:30 am Registration

8:00am am Shotgun Start

Timber Pointe Golf Club
 5750 Woodstock Road, Poplar Grove,
 20 minutes east of Rockford
\$125 per golfer
\$500/foursom
 Includes cart, fees, golf balls, tees, lunch,
 prizes & gift bag
 Performance prizes awarded
 Funds Benefit Katie's Cup



Patriots Gateway Center presents
Ruthie's Garden Party
 Dedication and Fundraiser
MAY 29, 2025 5 - 8 PM

TICKETS: \$50
 Food Silent Auction
 Art Auction 50/50 Raffle

Music by
Harlan Jefferson

PATRIOTS
 GATEWAY COMMUNITY CENTER

BAHAI TEMPLE TRIP

INTERFAITH EXPERIENCE TO WILMETTE, IL



MAY 31, 2025

8:00AM-4:00PM

**TICKETS: \$50 FOR ADULTS &
 \$20 FOR STUDENTS**
 (PAYS FOR BUS & LUNCH)

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE
 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeanne Thomas, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RVC Class—Marander Room
	9:00am	Race Summit—UW Health Sports Factory
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

UPCOMING

May 13	11:00am	Memorial Committee
	5:00pm	Katie's Cup Open Mic Night
May 14	11:00am	Missions/Evangelism Team—Multipurpose Room
May 15	12:00pm	WOZ Salad Luncheon—Fellowship Hall
May 17	8:30am	Church Council Retreat—Zion
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
May 20	Noon	Katie's Cup Conversation on Christian Nationalism
	3:00pm	Zion Outreach Board—Multipurpose Room
May 29	5:00pm	Ruthie's Garden Party—Patriots Gateway
May 31	8:00am	Baha'i Temple Trip—Wilmette, IL
June 13-14		Synod Assembly—Augustana College, Rock Island
June 14	9:00am	Cars and Coffee
June 18	11:00am	Finance Committee
June 19	1:00pm	WOZ—Presentation by Jeff Dahlberg
July 12	8:00am	Bike Midtown

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>