

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois  
February 15, 2026 at 9:15am  
[www.facebook.com/  
zionlutheranrockford](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY



PRELUDE "Near to the Heart of God"  
(Cleland B. McAfee arr. By Lari Goss)

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the  
Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who  
spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the  
waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in **+** Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Red Hymnal #858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

    O my soul, praise him,  
    for he is your health and salvation!

    Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
    joining in glad adoration!

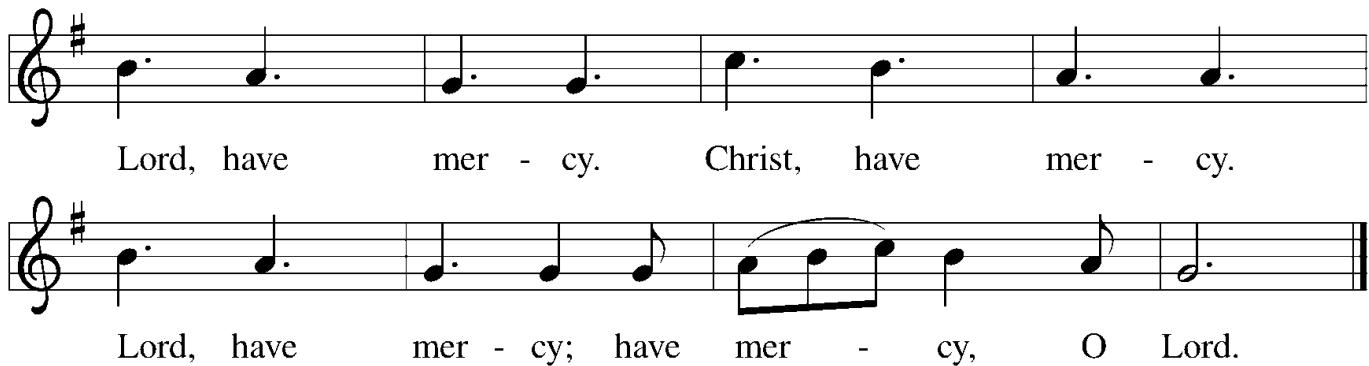
2 Praise to the Lord,  
    who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
    Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
    sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord,  
    who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
    Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
    if with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

## 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.**



Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy; have mercy, O Lord.

## SONG OF PRAISE "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!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **INSTALLATION OF RON CLEWER, CEO ZION DEVELOPMENT**

### **THE WORD**

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

#### **FIRST READING Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.” <sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God. Word of Promise. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 2

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar?  
    Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
    and the princes plot together,  
    against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup> "Let us break their yoke," they say;  
    "let us cast off their bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
    the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
    and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anointed my king  
    upon Zion, my holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
    who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
    and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an iron rod  
    and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup> **And now, you kings, be wise;  
    be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup> Submit to the LORD with fear,  
    and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup> **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.  
    Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

<sup>6</sup> **Moses and Aaron among your priests,  
    and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O LORD,  
    they called upon you, and you answered them,**

<sup>7</sup> **you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;  
    they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.**

<sup>8</sup> **O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's holy hill;  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

## SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God. Word of Promise. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia" Red Hymnal #174  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 17th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was

transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.<sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.<sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.<sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”<sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

# SERMON

# Pastor Michael Thomas

## SERMON SONG      “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

## Red Hymnal #834

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
y clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
    in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
    we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
    and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
    thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
    all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
    'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

#### 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 PEOPLE

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.  
**And also with you.**

## MUSIC OFFERING & OFFERING “Artist of My Soul”

Jodi Beach

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](http://www.zionrockford.com) or you can click on the QR code



## TABLE BLESSING “Come to the Table” Red Hymnal #481

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## **THE MEAL - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

### PRAYER

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 to the front for communion today.

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 by the piano.

Dispose of them in the lobby.

## COMMUNION    "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

Red Hymnal #754

1 Jesus, the very thought of you  
    fills us with sweet delight;  
    but sweeter far your face to view  
    and rest within your light.

2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,  
    nor can the mind recall  
    a sweeter sound than your blest name,  
    O Savior of us all!

3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,  
    O joy of all the meek,  
    how kind you are to those who fall!  
    How good to those who seek!

4 O Jesus, be our joy today;  
    help us to prize your love;  
    grant us at last to hear you say:  
    "Come, share my home above."

“Father Most Holy”

Red Hymnal #754

1 Father most holy, merciful, and tender;  
Jesus, our Savior, with the Father reigning;  
Spirit of comfort, advocate, defender,  
light never waning.

2 Trinity blessed, unity unshaken;  
goodness unbounded, very God of heaven,  
light of the angels, joy of those forsaken,  
hope of all living.

3 Maker of all things, all thy creatures praise thee;  
all for thy worship were and are created;  
now, as we also worship thee devoutly,  
hear thou our voices.

4 Lord God Almighty, unto thee be glory,  
one in three persons, over all exalted!  
Glory we offer, praise thee and adore thee,  
now and forever.

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

**Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “Light Dawns On A Weary World”

Red Hymnal #726

1 Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3 Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

## SENDING

Go in peace, beloved children of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“May Jesus Christ Be Praised”  
(Joseph Barnby arr. By Lari Goss)

# Good Friday Swedish Service

Friday, April 3, 2026 at Noon

**Zion Lutheran Church**

925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL



- Good Friday/Långfredagen Service at noon
  - Liturgy bulletin all spoken in Swedish
    - Swedish Community Choir
    - Jodi Beach, Special Music
    - Loose offering: Ruthie's Kitchen
      - Sermon in English
  - Holy Communion liturgy in Swedish



**Zion Lutheran Church**

925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104  
Office: 815.964.4609  
[www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com)



**Swedish Historical Society**

404 South 3rd Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
Office: 815.963.5559  
[www.swedishhistorical.org](http://www.swedishhistorical.org)

## “WE THE PEOPLE”

Civil Rights Conference

Speaker: Mark Charles

*Common Memory Tour*

Held at Patriots Gateway Community Center

Saturday, April 18, 2026

9:00am-3:00pm

\$25.00

Sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church

# 2026 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

## Conversations With Jesus

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE WORSHIP & SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 18 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon

February 25 at Calvary Lutheran Church at Noon  
(held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church)

Preacher: Pastor Mike Thomas

March 4 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 11 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

March 18 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Leslie Aska

March 25 at First Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg

CONVERSATIONS  
WITH JESUS  
LENT 2026



WOZ—We are taking a winter program break, but are still collecting food for Cornucopia Food Pantry. The February items are chili, flip top cans preferred, and Ramen noodles. The grocery cart in the Narthex has been really empty. Please help fill it! Thanks Karen Kermgard

## **BAG FLUFFING**

**FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY**

**Fourth Monday at 1:00pm**

**Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!**

**Cornucopia**



**Food Pantry**



## PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◊ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Stacie Fidlar, Pastor Thomas, 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.
- ◊ Senior Pastor Ndeshifoze Akyoo, Assisting Pastor Evan Kiula, and Assisting Pastor Yohanna Samson Ntui of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◊ Bishop Peter Paul Thomas and Pastor Selvakumar of Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier.
- ◊ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools.
- ◊ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: Mary Norman.
- ◊ For healing: Colette Buchert, Norm Buchert, Linda Callahan, Marjorie Carlson, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jeff Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Gary Johnson, Greg Johnson, Leola LeGault, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Terry Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Kamara Thomas, Deb Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, Nancy Warden, Danielle Wegner, Gary Wegner, Jr., and Gary Zeien.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike. 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.

## **WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Michael Thomas
Altar Guild	Kris Sommer
Assisting Minister	Janice Forrest, Student Deaconess
Communion Asst:	Connie Heden and Gary Zeien
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Musician:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

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

## PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday 9:15am Worship—Installation of ZDC CEO, Ron Clewer  
10:30am Fellowship—Affordable Housing  
11:00am Burmese Worship Service—Chapel  
1:00pm New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

Monday 9:30am Book Study—Multipurpose Room  
3:00pm Women's Circle at Stockholm Inn

Tuesday 8am-Noon RVC ESL Class—Marander Room  
(Tuesday-Thursday, 2-10 to 4-30-26)  
1:30pm Multicultural Committee

Wednesday 8:00am Bible Study—Stockholm Inn  
Noon Ash Wednesday Worship

Saturday 1:00pm Ruthie's Kitchen

Sunday 9:15am Worship  
10:30am Fellowship  
10:30am Forum: Fire Alarm System Capital Appeal  
11:00am Burmese Worship Service—Chapel  
1:00pm New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

## UPCOMING

March 7 8:00am CRE—Sauk Valley Community College

March 8 10:30am Forum with Rabbi Binah Wing: "What is Purim?"

April 2 Noon Maundy Thursday Worship

April 3 Noon Swedish Good Friday Worship Service

April 18 9am-3pm Civil Rights Conference  
"We The People" - Patriots Gateway Center

June 12-13 8:00am Synod Assembly—Augustana College

### WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](https://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>





## ZION FORUM

### February 15, 2026

9:15am Installation  
10:30am in Fellowship Hall

**A CONVERSATION WITH RON CLEWER**  
**THE NEW CEO OF ZION DEVELOPMENT**



## SEASONED SAINTS GROUP

Join Pastor Mike for Food, Fellowship & Faith  
Topic: "Conversations With Jesus"

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**  
**5:00-7:00pm**

Aunt Mary's (room reserved)  
East State Street  
Rockford, IL

