

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
February 25, 2024 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



arr. By Mark Hayes

PRELUDE "Day by Day"

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

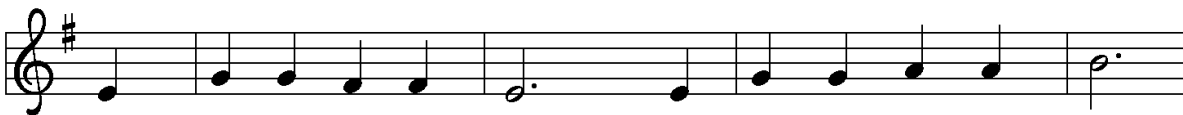
GREETING

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

Red Hymnal page #203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

THE WORD

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

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

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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31

(Congregation reads the bold)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**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.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

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,²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Let Your Steadfast Love" Red Hymnal Page #189



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

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.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But 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."³⁴ He

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

(First verse and all refrains in Spanish)

Red Hymnal #817

1 Tú has venido a la orilla;
no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos;
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.

Refrain/ Estribillo

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos;
sonriendo, has dicho mi nombre.

En la arena he dejado mi barca;
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

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

“Jesus Loves Me”

1. Nathi Perkins-Gama -Siswati
2. Jodi Beach-Swedish
3. Congregation-English

Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.

The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table. Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion. You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.



TABLE BLESSING “Holy, Holy, Holy—Santo, Santo, Santo” (one time in English, second time in Spanish)

ENGLISH: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of might and mercy,
your glory fills all heaven and earth. You are holy, God.
Blessed be the Savior, the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.
You are holy, God.

SPANISH: Santo, santo, santo, oh Dios del universo:
llenos están el cielo y la tierra de tu gloria.
Bendito el que viene en nombre del Señor.
Hosanna en el cielo.
Santo_eres, oh Dios.

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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy Communion will be received up front. Please receive the wafer into your hand and take a cup from the communion assistant. The inner ring is grape juice and the outer rings are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you would like the individual prepared disposable communion, please come forward.

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

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG "Oh, Sing to the Lord" Red Hymnal #822

Sing 5 verses in English and then vs 1 in Spanish



1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*
1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

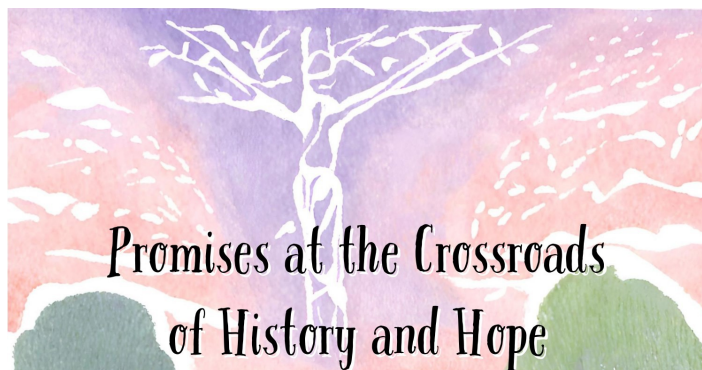
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Sing to the Lord”

Happy 15th Birthday to Veronica Marquez, we celebrate you today !

(The Quinceañeras Service will take place June 15th at 2:00pm)



2024 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

Exercise Class before at 11:00am—led by Faith Community Nurses
Simple Lunch After worship

February 28 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Michael Thomas

March 6 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 13 at Calvary Lutheran Church (Emmanuel) at Noon

Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg

March 20 by First Lutheran Church at Noon

Preacher: Intern Rachel Perkins-Gama



Informational Meeting
 Saturday March 2, 2024
 11:00am
 Katie's Cup Coffee Bar

CROSS-CULTURAL INTERGENERATIONAL INTERFAITH
2024 CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP TO ATLANTA

SPONSORED BY
 ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

June 20-25, 2024

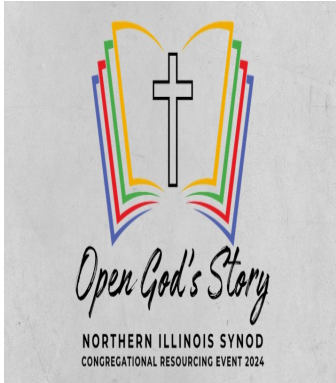
SPRING FESTIVAL AND MARKET



Saturday, 9am-1pm
 March 2, 2024



Music, Food, Coffee & Variety of Vendors!
 Music: "Emerald Wind"



NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCING EVENT!

"OPEN GOD'S STORY"

March 16, 2024, 8:30am - 3:30pm
 Sauk Valley Community College
 Dixon, Illinois

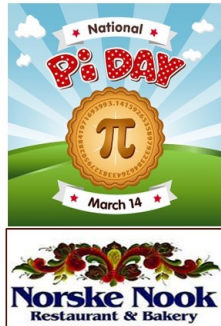
Registration closes March 2nd,
 (Note: all registrations must be paid with a credit card.)

Pi-Day Pies

March 14, 2024

Pickup 2-6pm

Norske Nook Pies at Katie's Cup



Visit Facebook or <https://www.katiescup.com> to order online.
 Stop into Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street, for a cup of coffee and order in person.
All proceeds help support the mission of Katie's Cup.

Swedish Pancake Breakfast



March 24, 2024
 10:30am

FAT SWEDISH PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL
 Proceeds benefit the Zion Lutheran Church
 2024 Civil Rights Trip to Atlanta

THE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM TEAM would like you to donate scarfs, gently used, knit, or crocheted. We will hang them on fences or railings around the church. We will have a little note on them saying "I'm not lost! If you are cold please take me to keep you warm." The back side says "From your friends at Zion Lutheran Church" If you have scarves to donate please drop them off in the office. Thank you

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern 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
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ 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: Verna Jay, Bonnie Sundberg, Kathy Thomas, and Gene Wessman
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Wayne Spitzer, and Megan Zaphel.

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

WELCA & Food Pantry!

Cornucopia Food is in short supply of **CEREAL** and it can't be obtained from the Food Bank. A grocery cart will be in the back of the worship space for donations or you can leave them in the church office. February items: **Peanut Butter & Jelly.**

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

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PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Adult Forum—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Library
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing
Tuesday	5:00pm	Human Resources—Library
	6:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	10:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lesson—Youth Center
Saturday	9:00am	Spring Festival & Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Adult Forum— Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Readers	Angeles Polcher, Neal Tolodxi
Musician	Jodi Beach