

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
May 3, 2026 at 9:15am
www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



PRELUDE "The Light of the World is Jesus"

arr. By Mark Hayes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You
lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of
creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters of the Rock River and Keith

Creek that nourished generations . Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Drawn to the Light" Red Hymnal #593



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

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 #154

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

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE "Praise the Lord! O Heavens"

Red Hymnal #823

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 - joice 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. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive

my spirit.”⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Word of life. Word of love. **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net
that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Word of life. Word of love.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go”



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 14th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and

will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

SERMON Pastor Lu Cantrell

SERMON SONG "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Red Hymnal #810



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

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

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

MUSIC OFFERING & OFFERING “Christ, Be Our Light”

Jeff Campbell

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

1*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
 You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
 you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
 Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
 Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

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.

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

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Red Hymnal #471

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken”

Red Hymnal #494

“I Am The Bread of Life”

Red Hymnal #485

(Songs on next pages)

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.



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



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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . have . . .

me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . . .

Refrain
 All

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,

and I will raise you up on the last day."

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

Amen.

Let us pray: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to build a table of belonging and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “Come, We That Love the Lord”

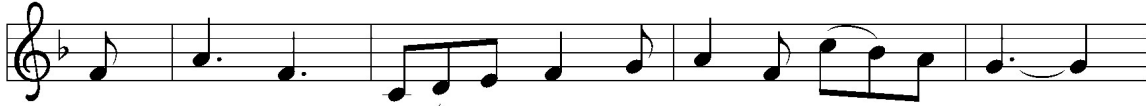
Red Hymnal #625

(song on next page)

SENDING Go in peace. Praise the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “Come, We That Love the Lord”

Come, We That Love the Lord *We're Marching to Zion*



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
 4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

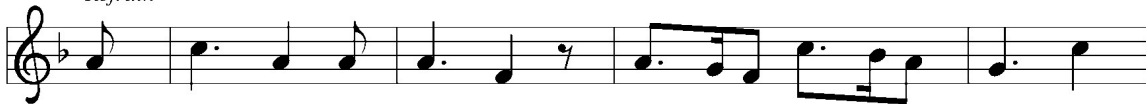


join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

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WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Minister	Pastor Lu Cantrell
Altar Guild	Kris Sommer
Assisting Minister	Student Deaconess Janice Forrest
Communion Assts:	Student Deaconess Janice Forrest
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Musician:	Jodi Beach-Piano
Reader:	Nancy Warden
Usher:	Kris Sommer

PASTOR MACK PATRICK
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
GUEST PREACHER
MAY 31, 2026!

9:15am Worship
10:30AM FORUM

Join us for a Forum after worship
Northern Illinois Synod Updates!



WOZ NEWS—We've been busy planning our Spring programs. May 21st is our annual salad luncheon at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our June date is and program TBD. And don't forget we are collecting personal items (tooth paste, soap, deodorant, etc.) for Cornucopia Food Pantry during May. Thanks—the WOZ Board.

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Stacie Fidler, 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 Ndeshifose 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.
- ◇ For healing: Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jeff Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, Gary Fulkerson, John Hoyt, Gary Johnson, Greg Johnson, Leola LeGault, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Kamara Thomas, Neal 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. If you would like a ribbon to show support for pride or the African American communities, they are located in a basket in the lobby/narthex. If you would like a Zion yard sign to display they are in the lobby/narthex.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation with Olson Funeral Home
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
	4:00pm	Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	5-7:00pm	Patriots Summer Camp Open House & Registration (free tacos)
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
Thursday	10:00am	Katie’s Cup RVC Class—White Supremacy, Pastor Thomas
	6:00pm	Reg. 1 “Livable Community” Public Meeting—Patriots Gateway
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen: St. Bernadette serving
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
	4:00pm	Zion’s Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center

UPCOMING

May 11	3:00pm	Women’s Group/Esther Circle at Stockholm Inn
May 12	1:30pm	Multicultural Team—Library
May 13	11:00am	Mission Team—Multipurpose Room
May 17	9:15am	Worship—Patriots Gateway Center
	10:30am	Simmon’s Scholarship Award Program—Patriots
	4:00pm	Zion’s Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center
May 21	11:30am	WOZ Salad Luncheon—Fellowship Hall
May 23	1:00pm	Patriots Ruthie’s Kitchen by Christ Lutheran serving
May 27	8:00am	Katie’s Cup Golf Outing—Timber Wolf
May 31	9:15am	Guest Pastor Mack Patrick from Northern Illinois Synod
June 6	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford: Parking Lot across from Katie’s Cup
	10:00am	Pride Parade—Rockford
June 11		Ruthie’s Garden Party at Klehm
June 12-13		Synod Assembly
June 14	9:15am	Juneteenth Worship at Zion
June 16	11:00am	Zion Outreach Board—Youth Center
June 21	10:30am	Retirement Celebration for Jolyn Hess
June 29	5-9pm	Women’s Interfaith Potluck-Fellowship Hall
July 4	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford: Parking Lot across from Katie’s Cup