

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

March 2, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford



ELCA

Zion Combo

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

Red Hymnal#857

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 #154

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

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

SONG OF PRAISE "O Beauty Ever Ancient"

(from ACS #1100)



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our 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 Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

PSALM 99

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ The LORD is king; let the people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

² **The LORD, great in Zion,
is high above all peoples.**

³ Let them confess God's name, which is great and awesome;
God is the Holy One.

⁴ **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD
and fall down before God's footstool; God is the Holy One.

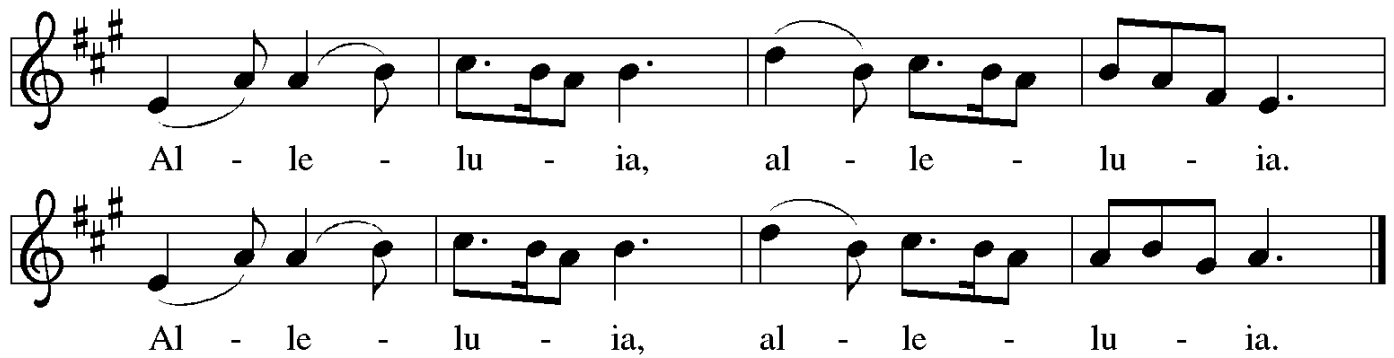
- ⁶ **Moses and Aaron among your priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O LORD,
they called upon you, and you answered them,**
- ⁷ you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
- ⁸ **O LORD our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**
- ⁹ 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 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.



The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 9th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-43a

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. ³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You

faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.^{43a} And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

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

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “Canticle of the Turning” Red Hymnal #723

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *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 "Bless the Lord, 10,000 Reasons" Gabby Nelson

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

“This Is Christ’s Body”

(from ACS #697)



This is Christ’s bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ’s bod - y,



bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

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.

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 SONG "Fill My Cup Lord" (From TFF #124)

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.

Come and quench his thirsting of my soul.

Bread of heaven, feed me till I thirst no more,

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

(Repeat)

"Bind Us Together"

Refrain

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord: Bind us together in love.

There is only one God. There is only one King.

There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. *Refrain*

You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.

You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. *Refrain*

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 Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG "Soon and Very Soon" Red Hymnal #439
(Song on next page)

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
 Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
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2025 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

Turning Toward God's Abundance

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE AT 11:00AM LED BY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES
SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

March 12 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 19 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Vicar Leslie Aska

March 26 at Calvary/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

April 2 at First Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Student Pastor Rachel Perkins

April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon
Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg
(No exercise class today)





ZION FORUM March 2, 2025

10:15am
Fellowship Hall

"FUNERAL PREPARATION"

A CONVERSATION WITH OLSON FUNERAL HOME
LED BY JANE BURDEN



AROUND THE TABLES Burmese Ministry Update Pastor Uk

March 9, 2025 at 10:15am

HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
Sponsored by Zion's Multicultural Committee
Held at Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue
Rockford, IL 61104



Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, 2025 at Noon

Soup lunch
after worship



BAHAI FAITH



"Bahai Faith: History and Beliefs"

Presented by
Dick & Ann Rundall

Members of the Bahai Center of Rockford, IL

March 16, 2025 at 10:15am

ALABAMA STORY

ARTIST ENSEMBLE THEATER

BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF A 1959 CENSORSHIP OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH



APRIL 6, 2025
2:00PM

TICKETS: \$28 FOR ADULTS &
\$10 FOR STUDENTS



HELD AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY

THIS TRIP IS SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE
925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - 815.964.4609 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



CRE

March 22, 2025

Growing Disciples

Northern Illinois Synod 2025

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
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EXERCISE CLASS



Hello everyone! I just became certified to teach exercise classes! The is a 12-week course that focuses on strength training and balance! Class would be held twice a week for approximately 45 minutes. Beginning March 4th, 9AM at St. Bridget's, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call me at 630- 465-2135 or email if interested!

WORSHIP LEADER'S
 Communion Assistant: Jori Roysdon
 Fellowship:
 Media:
 Music: Jodi Beach
 Readers: Nancy Warden
 Sound: Deangelo Brunson
 Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY
Fourth Monday at 1:00pm
 Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!



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 let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date: During Marc we are requesting donations of **Bars of Soap and or Toilet Paper** for distribution at the 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. Thanks so much! The WOZ board Everyone seems to enjoy playing BUNCO so our first event will be BUNCO on March 20th 1:00 in the Zion Fellowship Hall.

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Multipurpose Room. The Book “A is for Alabaster”, a devotional that anyone can order.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups



Zion's Future Midtown Mission: “Zion’s Future Midtown Mission to discern the future of the facilities, the fire alarm system, continuing resolution on property purchase, the assets and liabilities of the properties, and partnering with the Midtown Lutheran Parish churches.” This was in response to the Annual Meeting action items.

Team Members: : Jim Duhigg, Gary Fulkerson, Torg Hallin, Ann Harkabus, Jane Lightcap, Brad Roos, Kris Sommer (chair), Bob Thomas and Pastor Thomas.

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>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer
 as little as 2 hours a month
 Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
 and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.
 Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

Cornucopia



Food Pantry

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: Family of Bob Campbell and Darlene Handlin.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeannie 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 Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Fellowship in Honor of Ina Miller's 98th Birthday—Fellowship Hall
	11:30am	Take down Christmas Trees and wreaths
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
	12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service (Soup luncheon follows)
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship First Sunday of Lent
	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk

UPCOMING

March 16	10:30am	Forum: Baha'i Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall
	10:30am	Fellowship In Honor of Pastor Jerry Peterson's Birthday
March 22	8:30am	CRE—Sauk Valley Community College
March 23	10:30am	Know Your Rights presenter Yenny Munoz-Swaninger
March 25	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room
April 6	10:30am	Forum: NAMI presenter Jeanette Towns
April 13	10:30am	Palm Sunday Breakfast (tickets available from Multicultural)

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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>