

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois  
April 26, 2026 at 9:15am

[www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



PRELUDE        “Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”  
                         By William Bradbury arranged by Lari Goss

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 "You Servants of God" Red Hymnal #825



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -  
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-tor-ious, of  
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his  
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the  
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!  
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!  
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.  
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

## 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 - 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. O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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 2:42-47

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways  
for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:19-25

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” <sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of life. Word of love.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**



for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

SERMON          Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Red Hymnal #789

(song on next page)



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;  
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

## 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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### MUSIC OFFERING & OFFERING "Sufficient for Today"

Words and music by Dante Bowe, Jow L. Barnes, Maryanne J. George,  
Pat Barrett and Tiffany Hudson


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 "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

(Songs on next pages)

“You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd”

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

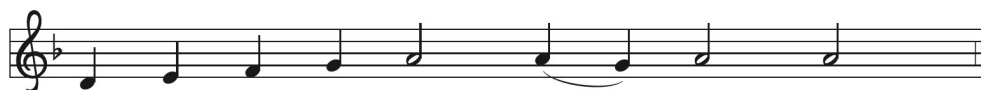
## You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



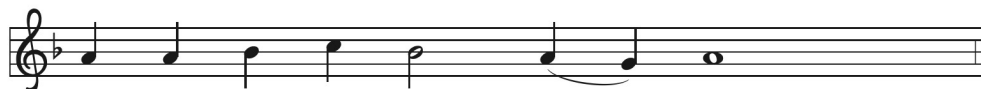
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side.  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



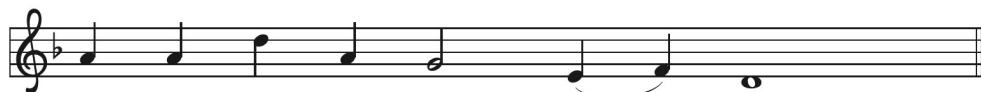
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim and guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

## “The Lord’s My Shepherd”



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

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.**

Almighty Creator, who is the creator of all tribes and nations, + bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Red Hymnal #502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
thine unction grace bestoweth;  
and, oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thy goodness faileth never.  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house forever.

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

POSTLUDE “You Are Crowned With Many Crowns”

By John Sellars, arr. By Mark Hayes

## Mosaic Youth Group



Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm  
Zion Lutheran Church

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Held at Zion Lutheran Church!



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!



## PRIDE PARADE

*Zion is in the parade!*

**June 6, 2026**

*We will setup at 10am!*

*Parade starts at 11:00am*

Sponsored by the Multicultural Committee  
Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104



**Sunday  
June 14, 2026**

**Sunday Worship at 9:15am**

**Worship at Zion Lutheran Church  
Special Music, Speaker and Worship**

615 S. Fifth Street - Rockford, IL 61104

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- \* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93
- \* Opening Liturgy and Prayers were written by Ron Flaming, Waterloo North Mennonite Church Truth and Reconciliation Action Group. Used by permission.

## WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Minister	Pastor Michael Thomas
Altar Guild	Kris Sommer
Assisting Minister	Student Deaconess Janice Forrest
Communion Assts:	
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Musician:	Jodi Beach-Piano, Jim McDowell-Bass
Reader:	
Usher:	

**WOZ NEWS**—We've been busy planning our Spring programs. Add April 21st at 1:00pm to your calendar. This will be an interesting program by Jeff Dahlberg. May 19th is our annual salad luncheon at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our June date is the 16th with the program TBD. And don't forget we are collecting canned fruit for Cornucopia Food Pantry during March. 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: Jessica Brown, 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, Deb Tolodxi, 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	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing
Tuesday	8am-Noon	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	10:30am	Memorial Committee
	5:00pm	HR Committee
	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
Saturday	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford (Zion's Grilling Fundraiser)
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen: Helping Hands
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	Zion's Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center

### UPCOMING

May 5	5-7:00pm	Patriots Summer Camp Open House & Registration (free tacos)
May 7	10:00am	Katie's Cup RVC Class—Whie Supremacy, Pastor Thomas
	6:00pm	Reg. 1 "Livable Community" Public Meeting—Patriots Gateway
May 9	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen by St. Bernadette serving
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	Ruthie's Kitchen by Zion 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
June 11		Ruthie's Garden Party at Klehm
June 12-13		Synod Assembly
June 14	9:15am	Juneteenth Worship at Zion
June 21	10:30am	Retirement Celebration for Jolyn Hess