

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

April 19, 2026 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



PRELUDE “Just As I Am” by William B. Bradbury,
quoting “Gymnopedie, No.1” by Erik Satie; 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, we remember the 12-13 tribes in the region like the Sauk, the Potawatomi, the Fox and Kiaapoi. We remember that we have benefited from the colonial violence that erased their lives and history in this region.

We remember them and ask for your mercy.

Holy Creator, we remember the stories of those we haven't always heard. We hear the stories of others even when we don't want to remember. We thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Build A Longer Table"



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

EASTER HOPE

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.

Today we acknowledge the Doctrine of Discovery was taught by the European Christian Church. It was based on another legal doctrine, which held that no one owned land prior to the assertion of European sovereignty. The Doctrine of Discovery provided a religious rationalization for theft, murder, and the annihilation of people living on these lands which European invaders wished to appropriate for their own use.

We repudiate the false teaching of the Doctrine of Discovery. We reject the Doctrine of Discovery as born of greedy intent. We turn our backs on the Doctrine of Discovery and the injustice it spawns.

We lament the injustice that has been done and is being done to the Indigenous peoples of this land in the name of the false “Doctrine of Discovery.” We lament the suffering of the earth that continues to this day.

Lord, we did not know what we are accomplices to!

BUT NOW WE DO KNOW.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ is risen!

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ is risen indeed.

SONG OF PRAISE “Now the Feast and Celebration”



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



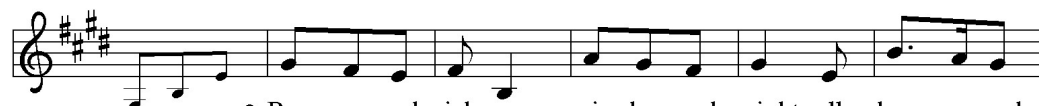
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



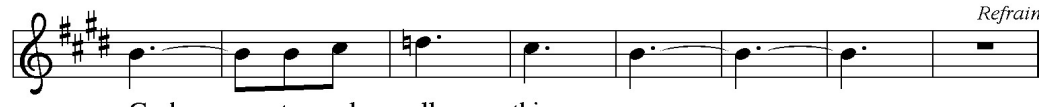
2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Creator God, we have heard the true story behind the false history we have been taught. We recognize the dehumanizing attitude behind the arrival of Europeans on these shores of Turtle Island and their arrogant proclamation of it as a “new world.” We have repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in words. Let these words shape our attitudes and actions. We are grateful that your radical inclusivity includes those who have caused trauma and who have experienced trauma. We are grateful that Jesus comes to us all to invite us into a community of belonging.

Amen.

THE WORD

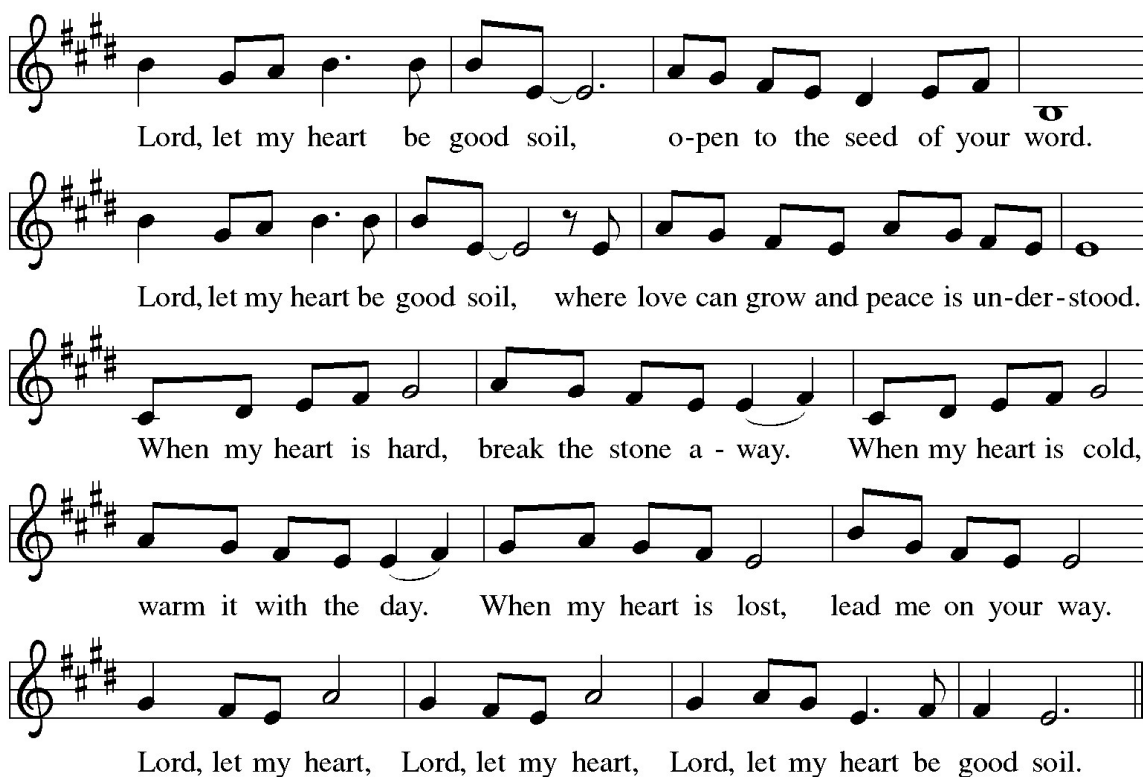
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
- ³ The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**
- ¹² How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
- ¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people.
- ¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SONG

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” - Red Hymnal #512



The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood. When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil."

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

MESSAGE

Acts 10
“God’s Radical Inclusivity”
Mark Charles

SONG "For Everyone Born A Place At the Table"

Fm B♭m⁶ C⁷ Fm

1. For ev - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, re -
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, a -
 5. For ev - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to

3 B♭m⁶ C⁷ Fm B♭

ev - ry - one born, clean wa - ter and bread, a shel - ter, a space, a
 -vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, with wis - dom and grace, di -
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hand of a child in
 -bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, in an - ger, in hurt, a
 live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be, to work, to speak out, to

6 Gm C Fm B♭m⁶ Fm/C C⁷ Fm

safe place for grow - ing: For ev - ry - one born, a star o - ver head. And
 -vid - ing the pow - er: For wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.
 hands that are wrin - kled: For young and for old, the right to be - long.
 mind - set of mer - cy: For just and un - just, a new way to live.
 wit - ness and wor - ship: For ev - ry - one born, the right to be free.

9 D♭ B♭m Fm/A♭ C⁷/G Fm D♭

God will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, com -

12 B♭m⁷ C^{sus} Cm Cm⁷ Fm

-pas - sion and peace; Yes, jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.

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

“Love In Any Language” - Jodi Beach and Jim McDowell

words and music by Jon Mohr and John Mays

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 “Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping”



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir - it



sleep - ing while our brief lives are bound in death.
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor - rows swal - low and of - fers
The Spir - it sings though we are shak - en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and
shared our heart - felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

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

“Just As I Am” Red Hymnal #592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

“Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone”

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
Unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. (Chorus)

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

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 “This Little Light of Mine”
(music and words on next page)

1. This li - ttle light of mine, I'm go-nna let it shine;
 2. Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 3. Shine it o - ver Rockford,
 4. This li - ttle light of mine,

5
 This li - ttle light of mine, I'm go-nna let it shine;
 Ev - 'ry - where I go,
 Shine it o - ver Illinois,
 This lit - ttle light of mine,

9
 This li - ttle light of mine, I'm go-nna let it shine, let it
 Ev - 'ry - here I go,
 Shine it all o - ver the world,
 This li - ttle light of mine,

13
 shine, let it shine, let it shine.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "This Little Light of Mine"

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

Mosaic Youth Group



Sunday May 3rd and 17th at 4:00pm
Zion Lutheran Church

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Held at Zion Lutheran Church!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



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WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

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

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: Norm Buchert; Marjorie Carlson
- ◇ 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	Forum: Mark Charles
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	8am-Noon	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	1:00pm	WOZ Event—Presenter Jeff Dahlberg—Fellowship Hall
	2:30pm	Zion Outreach Board Meeting
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
Saturday	Noon	Patriots Gateway Center Open House (free lunch)
	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen: Zion Serving
	9am-1pm	ACT-SO—Youth Center
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
UPCOMING		
April 27	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing
April 28	10:30am	Memorial Committee
	6:00pm	Church Council Meeting
May 2	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford (Zion’s Grilling Fundraiser)
	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen by Helping Hands
May 3	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation
	4:00pm	Zion’s Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center
May 5	5-7:00pm	Patriots Summer Camp Open House & Registration (free tacos)
May 9	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen by St. Bernadette serving
May 11	3:00pm	Women’s Group/Esther Circle at Stockholm Inn
May 13	11:00am	Mission Team—Multipurpose Room
May 17	9:15am	Worship—Patriots Gateway Center
		Simmon’s Scholarship Award Sunday—Patriots
	4:00pm	Zion’s Mosaic Youth Group—Youth Center
May 19	11:30am	WOZ Salad Luncheon—Fellowship Hall
May 23	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen by Zion serving
June 6	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford: Parking Lot across from Katie’s Cup
June 12-13		Synod Assembly
June 14	9:15am	Juneteenth Worship at Zion