

# Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

9:15 A.M. Services



PRELUDE “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It” arr. Mark Hayes

PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL Matthew 21:1-11

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud and Honor” Red Hymnal #344

*Refrain*

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,  
2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;  
3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;  
4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

## PALM SUNDAY LITANY

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life. One God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

**Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin. Merciful God,  
**we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation.

**Amen.**

Cry aloud! Shout your joy!

**The King of glory now draws near!**

Cry aloud! Sing your welcome!

**The Son of David from on high!**

Cry aloud! Spread the wonder!

**The Servant of the Lord draws near!**

Cry aloud! Tell the triumph!

**The Savior of the world is here!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Hosanna in the highest!**

# HYMN OF PRAISE "With Our Glad Hosannas"

(Tune to: Onward Christian Soldiers)



1. With our glad ho - sann - as, all God's child - ren sing,  
2. Glor - y laud and hon - or, hap - py pil - grims sang,  
3. An - gels in the hea - vens raised their song on high,  
4. On - ward, all God's child - ren, join the hap - py throng,



5  
glo - ry, laud, and ho - nor, un - to Christ the King!  
Pill - ared court and tem - ple with the anth - em rang.  
Saints on earth in chor - us make their glad re - ply.  
Raise to Christ your voic - es in ex - al - ted song.



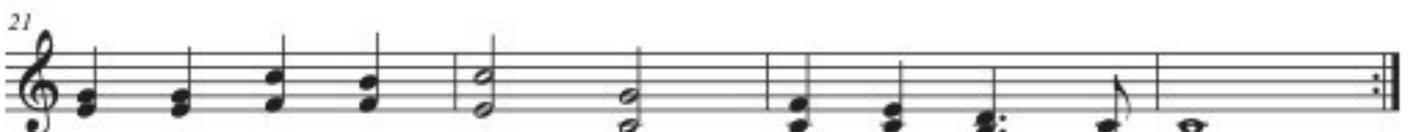
9  
Hail the true Mes - si - ah, Dav - id's roy - al Son,  
Cloaks were spread be - fore Him; palms were waved with glee,  
Glo - ry in the high - est to the Prince of Peace.  
Sing a - loud His glo - ry; tell His praise a - bout.



13  
in the Lord's name com - ing - God's own Bless - ed One!  
As the sov' - reign en - tered in hu - mi - li - ty.  
With our palms and prais - es, — let the song in - crease.  
For if we were si - lent, lo, the stones would shout.



17  
With our glad ho - sann - as, all God's child - ren sing,



21  
Glo - ry, laud, and ho - nor un - to Christ the King!

## PRAYER

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSALM 31:9-16 (Congregation read the bold)

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

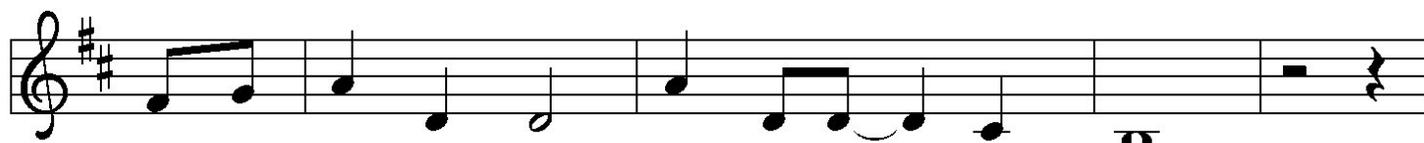
<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD.  
I have said, "You are my God.**

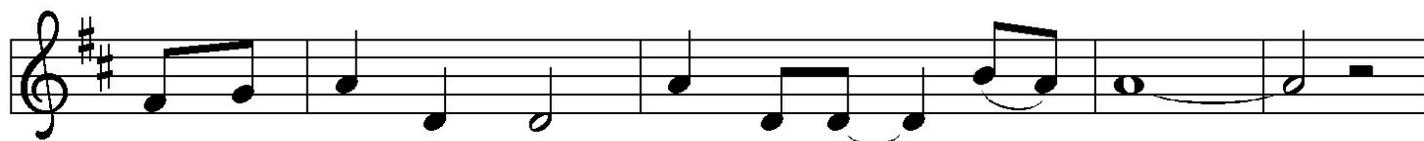
<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

## SONG "Let Your Steadfast Love"



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 GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PASSION READING

SERMON Pastoral Michael Thomas

SERMON HYMN "Borning Cry" Red Hymnal #732

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borbning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

## **HOLY BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Baptized: Zachary Joseph Miller - Parents: Jeff and Bree Miller  
Sponsors: Mark & Tracie Robertson

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn children of God and made members of the Church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

**Parents & Sponsors: We present Zachary Joseph to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Zachary Joseph baptized?

**Parents & Sponsors: We do! And We ask God to help us.**

As you receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with these responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people; bring them to worship to hear to the word of God and receive Holy Communion; teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and read the Bible to them; nurture them in faith and prayer; so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made; and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Parents: We do and we ask God to help us.**

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Zachary Joseph in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Sponsors: We do and we ask God to help us.**

James and Julie, Is it your calling to become members of Zion Lutheran Church? Are you in agreement with the Mission, Values, Vision, Beliefs of Zion and do you feel led to unite with the Zion Lutheran Church and support our mission to be a mosaic community sharing the grace of Christ with all? Will you protect the unity of the church by acting in love toward other members and by using your words to build others up and refusing to gossip? Will you support the leadership of the congregation by living a life of integrity, to God, yourselves and others and by treating all equal regardless of age, gender, race or class?

**New Members: Yes, and I ask God to help guide me.**

I ask all of you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God's will?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.** (Please Stand)

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again,**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.** (Please Be Seated)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Oh God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of Baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor, praise and worship through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Zachary Joseph, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF BLESSING**

I give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give new life, cleansing us from sin, and raising us up to new life.

Pour your Holy Spirit upon Zachary, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

**Amen.**

Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God in heaven.

### **PARENT'S PRAYER**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for Zachary. We ask you to guide his life and use us to share your love with him. Be with his sponsors as they share their faith with us. Bless us and our church community to support one another, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR THE PARENTS**

O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Jeff and Bree. Let them ever rejoice in the gifts you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of faith for Zachary. Strengthen them in Baptism so they may share eternally with Zachary the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **THE WELCOME INTO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Through Baptism, God has made Zachary, James, and Julie members of the ministry we all share in our Christian family. I ask you, the people of God, will you support them and work with them to live out being a mosaic community, sharing the grace of Christ with all?

### **YES, WITH THE HELP OF GOD!**

**Zachary, James , and Julie, we welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission of being a Mosaic community sharing the grace of Christ with all. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and siblings in Christ in the family of God. AMEN!**

Let us welcome James and Julie into the life of the parish and Zachary Joseph as a new baptized brother in Christ in the Church here at Zion.

**Thanks be to god! Amen!**

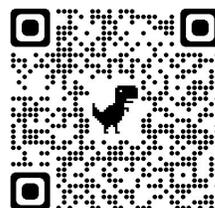
The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC “Via Dolorosa” by Billy Sprague and Niles Borop

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](http://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 table. Prayer requests will be shared with people who pray at Zion.

You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.

## TABLE BLESSING “This Is Christ’s Body”



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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. 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, they are in a basket by the piano / prayer table.

# COMMUNION SONG "Ah Holy Jesus" Red Hymnal #349



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



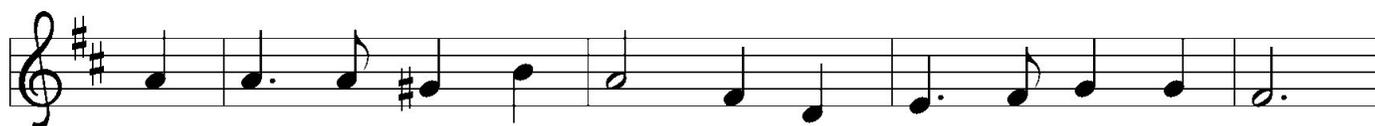
by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
 Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

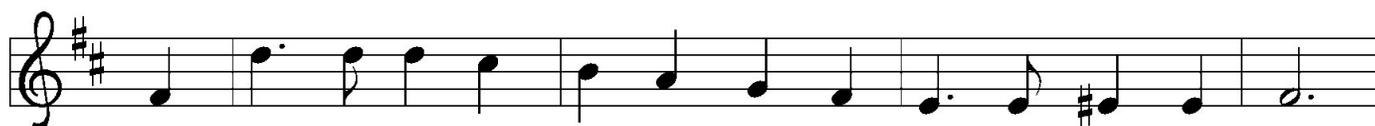
# “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Red Hymnal #338

## Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

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 Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

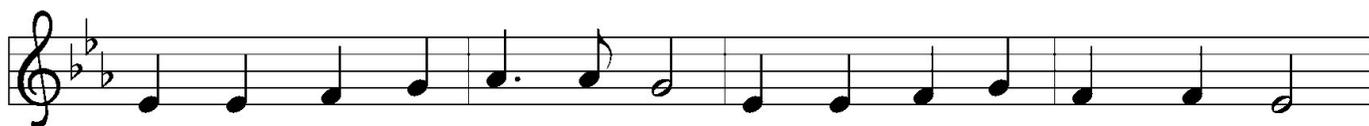
**Amen.**

## HOLY WEEK READING

### PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SENDING HYMN "Go To Dark Gethsemane" Red Hymnal #347



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

*(Please remain silent when exiting)*

## Palm Sunday Passion Participants

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Narrator 1	Jane Burden
Narrator 2	Nancy Warden
Jesus	James Rasch
Peter	Ron Simmons
Judas	Denver Bitner
Pilate	Deb Gortowski
High Priest	Pam Bitner

Assisting Minister	Student Deaconess Janice Forrest
Communion Assistant	
Cross Bearer	
Fellowship	Breakfast Fundraiser
Musician	Jodi Beach, piano and Jim McDowell, bass
Usher	
Worship Setup	Kris Sommer

### 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, and Marjorie Carlson.
- ◇ For healing: Jessica Brown, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Jeff Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, Gary Fulkerson, John Hoyt, Carol Johnson, Gary Johnson, Greg Johnson, Leola LeGault, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Kamara Thomas, Neal Tolodxi, Deb Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, 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.

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE  
ONLINE

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

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



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