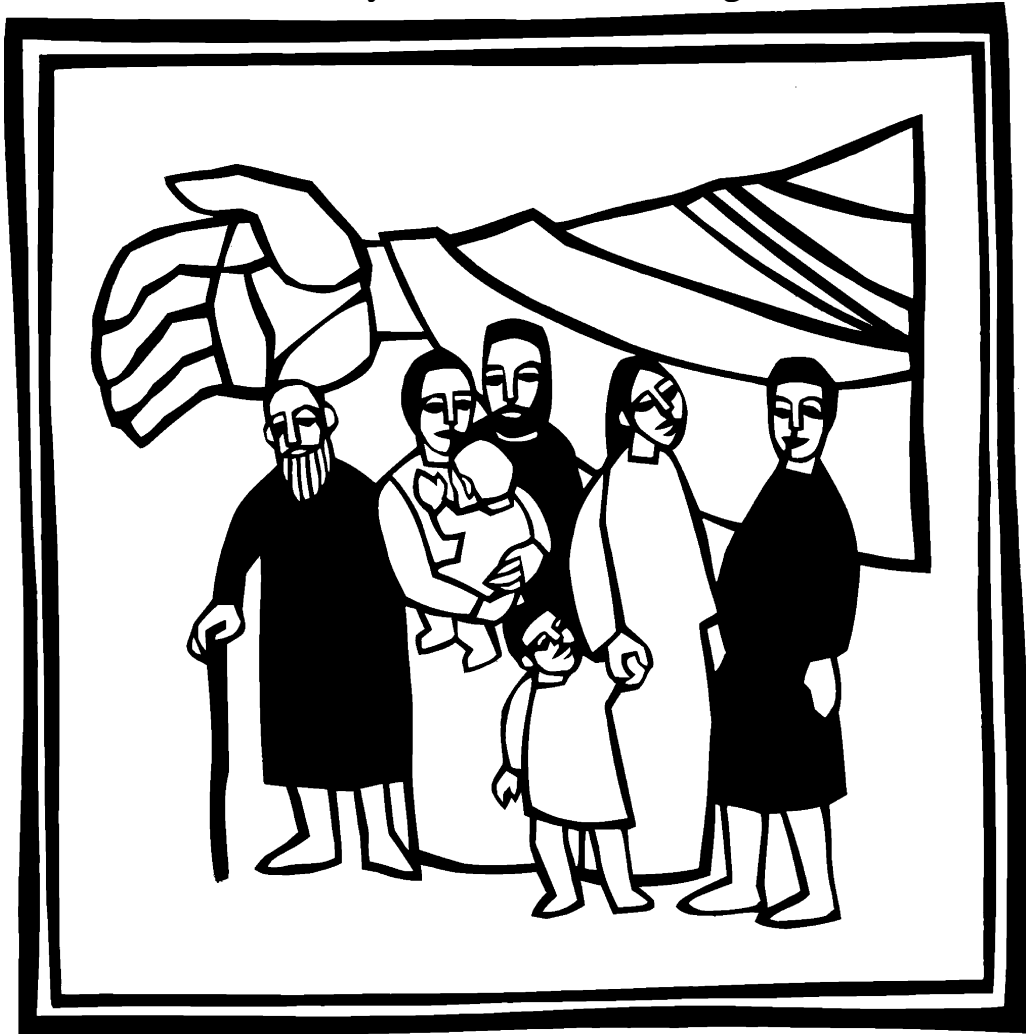


# Third Sunday in Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four



**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

*Phillipsburg, KS*

## **Introduction to the day**

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* (ELW 733)

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

### *Refrain*



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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**GREETING (ELW p. 147)**

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 (ELW p. 147)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 150)**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life,  
death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and  
bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be

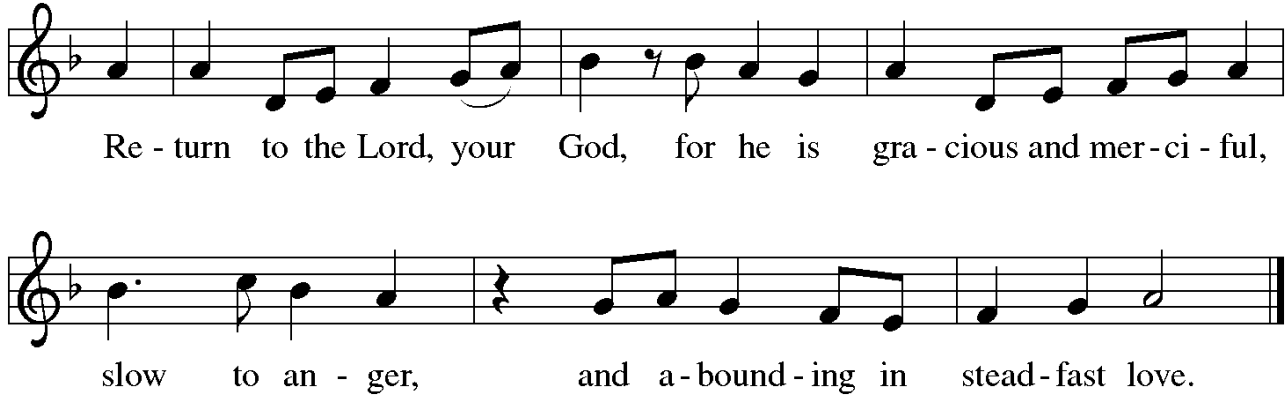
tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?

<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** (ELW p. 151)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)

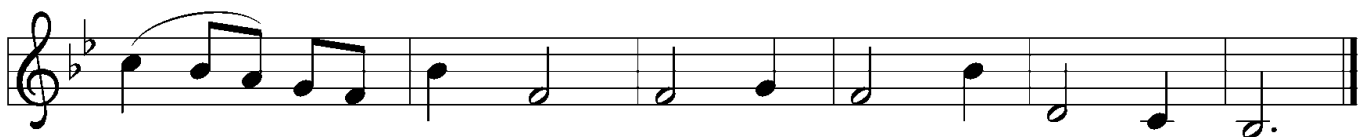
In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867



## **CREED** (ELW p. 152)

**As the Spirit moves us, let us stand and confess faith in God with the church throughout the world and time through the words of the Apostles' Creed.**

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

**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.**

**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**

---

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE (ELW p. 152)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 152)**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

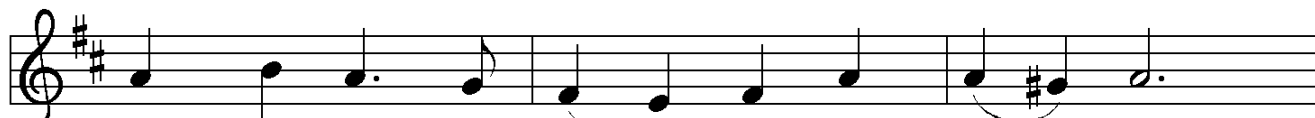
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)**




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**BLESSING (ELW p. 155)**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW 545)**

**Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 155)**

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980**

**Monday, March 24, 2025**

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

**Annunciation of Our Lord**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

**Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824**

**Saturday, March 29, 2025**

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

## **COMBINED ZION & EMMANUEL PRAYER LIST**

**Sick, injured, or grieving:** Irene Brocka, Shawn Cole, Crystal Gruwell, Shannon Jarvis, Howard King, Sharon Krafft, Ehrhart Merklein, Betty Zillinger, Connie Winter, Pastor Lee, Pastor Kathy, Marci Rust, Carol & Kay Bruggeman, Pat VanAllen, Larry Manz

**Military** - Jared Dillon, Jessica Kreller, Bryan Lenker, Anthony Swarts, Major Monica Riggs, Brady Sunley, Col. Lisa Mullinax, Col. Mark Mullinax, Tiler Peveani.

**Homebound or in care facilities:** Don Merklein, Ehrhart Merklein, Dorothy & Wayne Hanke, Ray & Donna Zillinger, Betty Zillinger, Wilma Beckman, Charles Kearns, Troy Blubaugh, Ron Sidman, and Jean Daniels

**Special Prayers:** Lucas Maddy (Attending School in Malaysia)

**TO ADD PRAYERS:** If you wish to add someone to the printed prayer list, please email or call Janice Giedd at [jgiedd@ruraltel.net](mailto:jgiedd@ruraltel.net) or (785) 543-6705. Please make sure the person being added consents to being on a public prayer list. Names will remain

on the list for six weeks unless otherwise notified. If you wish to have an emergency prayer request sent over text, please contact Pastor Kathy at [kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com](mailto:kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com) or (785) 302-1876.

**Lawn Donations:** Robinson Lawn Care will be spraying again this year. Anyone help is appreciated. The estimated cost for the year is \$600.

**Worship Volunteers:** New Sign-up sheets have been placed on the bulletin boards for Worship volunteers, Lay Ministry, and help with visitations. Job duties have slightly changed, and we are willing to train on any duties. Please re-sign up if you are willing to help! If you have any questions, please reach out to a Council member.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT ON MARCH 23, 2025**

<b><i>Worship Leaders</i></b>	<b><i>Third Sunday of Lent, March 23 at 10:30 am</i></b>	<b><i>Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30 at 10:30 am - Emmanuel</i></b>
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Lay Marci Rust	PMA Candidate Andrea Keesee
<b>Musician</b>	Jean Ann Wagner	
<b>Lector</b>	Cristina Driggs	
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Doug & Leanna Driggs	
<b>Usher</b>	Janet McCall	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat & Marci Rust	
<b>Media</b>	Benny Bennight	

## **COMBINED EMMANUEL & ZION CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, March 23 – Third Sunday of Lent (Lectionary 3C)**

- 9:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday Non-Communion
- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Zion Sunday Non-Communion

### **Tuesday, March 25**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion

### **Wednesday, March 26**

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion
- 7:30 pm – Mid-Week Lent Service at Zion

### **Thursday, March 27**

- 7:00 pm – Zion Bible Study

### **Sunday, March 30 – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Lectionary 3C) Combined Service at Emmanuel – Potluck to follow service**

- 10:00 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Combined Sunday Communion
  - **Potluck** to follow service

### **DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS WEBSITE AND INFORMATION:**

(<https://www.disciplesoftheplains.com>) The website for Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry contains links to the individual websites of the congregations who have web sites, links to congregational Facebook and other social media pages, links to Synod and ELCA pages, and links to sign-up or to change your settings for Textcaster. Textcaster is our service to get information out quickly via texts. You can customize what notification you want.

### **PASTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION:**

- Pastor Kathy Whitney: [kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com](mailto:kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com) (785) 302-1876

### **ZION OFFICE INFORMATION**

- Email: [zionlu@ruraltel.net](mailto:zionlu@ruraltel.net)
- Telephone: (785) 543-2005



- Congregation Website: [www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org](http://www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org)

### **2025 ZION LUTHERAN COUNCIL:**

- Nathaniel Grote - President : [Grotebar@gmail.com](mailto:Grotebar@gmail.com) (785) 236-1964
- Shellie Lare - Vice-president: [bslare@ruraltel.net](mailto:bslare@ruraltel.net) (785) 302-0827
- Dennis Keesee - Treasurer: [dkeesee@nex-tech.com](mailto:dkeesee@nex-tech.com) (785) 533-1040
- Christina Driggs – Secretary: [kujhawk9603@gmail.com](mailto:kujhawk9603@gmail.com) (785) 533-1068
- Marci Rust - [mlrust@ruraltel.net](mailto:mlrust@ruraltel.net) (785) 543-8287
- Howard King - [kingpin@ruraltel.net](mailto:kingpin@ruraltel.net) (785) 543-4223

### **ZION PARISH COUNCIL REPS:**

- Doug Zillinger: [dougz@ruraltel.net](mailto:dougz@ruraltel.net) (785) 543-8356
- Shellie Lare - [bslare@ruraltel.net](mailto:bslare@ruraltel.net) (785) 302-0827

### **ZION PARISH MUTUAL MINISTRY REPS:**

- Andrea Keesee: [akeesee@nex-tech.com](mailto:akeesee@nex-tech.com) (785) 533-2723
- Tamra Griffey [artevaedesigns@gmail.com](mailto:artevaedesigns@gmail.com) (785) 302-1652

### **TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS:**

Please submit items to be included in either Zion and / or Emmanuel’s bulletin or newsletter by emailing Janet Conn at [emmanuel@ruraltel.net](mailto:emmanuel@ruraltel.net) or the Zion office at [zionlu@ruraltel.net](mailto:zionlu@ruraltel.net). If the item is printed and cannot be emailed, please leave a copy on Janet’s desk in the Emmanuel office- annex or put a copy under the main office door at Zion. Please also include if you want it in bulletins, newsletters, both, and for how long. Thank you.

