

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to Rally Sunday! Today, we celebrate the start of the 2024-25 activity year here at Zion Lutheran Church. Each week we rally around the Word of God and Holy Communion. We listen together as the lessons are read. We listen together as sermons are preached, as songs are sung and anthems soar. We rally around the love that God has for each of us and the lengths to which He will go to seek us out, to save us, to make a place for us, to celebrate with us! Let's Rally Together to be a presence of Christ in the world today!

Today, we begin a new series of answering the question every week of "Who is Jesus?" Our first focus for today to help us answer the question is "A Welcome Truth." Jesus and His disciples visit the home of sisters Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the Lord's feet to hear His words. Martha, busy with meal preparations, asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. Instead, Jesus gently tells Martha that Mary has chosen the more important thing.

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

OPENING HYMN: LSB 904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

 Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

- All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
 Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
 You alone to God can win us;
 You must work all good within us.
- Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding, Open now our heart and mind;

Help us by Your Spirit's pleading. Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. So let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

People: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins, and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: Our Lord invites us to come and see what He has done— He has given us solid promises that guard our faith in days of sorrow, suffering, confusion, conflict, and pain. He has sent His Son to be the Word of life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and through the work of our Savior Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

THE INTROIT: Psalm 27:7-14 Antiphon verse 4

Pastor: Hear my voice when I call, LORD; **People: be merciful to me and answer me.**

Pastor: My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" **People: Your face, LORD, I will seek.**

Pastor: Do not hide your face from me, **People: do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.**

Pastor: Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior. **People: Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.** Pastor: Teach me your way, LORD; **People: Lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.**

Pastor: Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, **People: for false witnesses rise up against me, spouting malicious accusations.**

Pastor: I remain confident of this:

People: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Pastor: Wait for the LORD;

People: Be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: **People: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

<u>KYRIE</u>

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

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

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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. **People (sing): Lord, have mercy.**

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

People (sing): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **People (sing): Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: This is the Feast

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: O Lord, the daily pressures and demands of this world are great; grant that we would daily repent of our sin and look to Christ, for forgiveness, joy and humility; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

<u>TIME IN THE WORD</u> Children's Bible Reading: Page 284

The Reading of the Day: Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: LSB 536 One Thing's Needful

- One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure Teach me highly to regard.
 All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard!
 Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving, No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
 This one thing is needful; all others are vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!
- How were Mary's thoughts devoted Her eternal joy to find
 As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!

How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling, While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing! All earthly concerns she forgot for her Lord And found her contentment in hearing His Word.

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in You.
Let me find in You my pleasure, And my wayward will subdue,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine, The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

4 Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good.
Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer But Your crimson-colored blood.
Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated And thereby my righteousness fully completed; Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain, And in them in glory with You I shall reign.

5 Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me;
5 Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy. Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me, In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me. This one thing is needful; all others are vain— I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain! Text: Public domain

THE SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING HYMN: LSB 687 Thine Forever, God of Love

- 1 Thine forever, God of love! Hear us from Thy throne above; Thine forever may we be Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest They who find in Thee their rest! Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend, O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life! Shield us through our earthly strife. Thou, the life, the truth, the way, Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep These Thy frail and trembling sheep;

Safe alone beneath Thy care, Let us all Thy goodness share.

5 Thine forever! Thou our guide, All our wants by Thee supplied, All our sins by Thee forgiv'n; Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 475

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

- Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way; Let all the world rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- Praise we in songs of victory
 That love, that life which cannot die,
 And sing with hearts uplifted high:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord, And sing today with one accord The life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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SEND OFF

Pastor: At Zion we are committed to reaching out, strengthening the saved,

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!