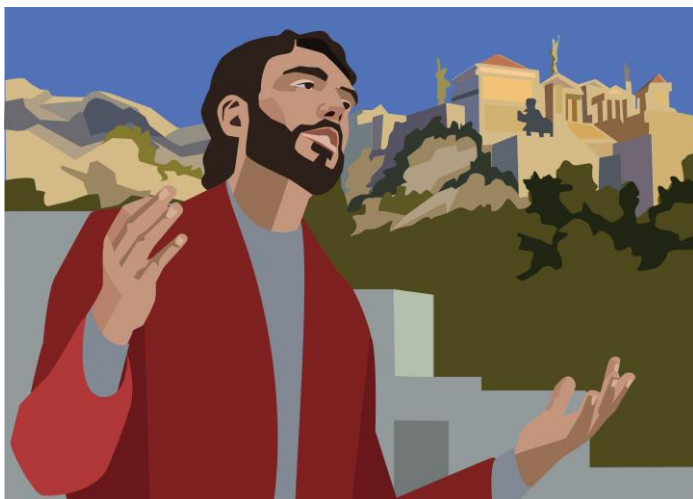


**First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025
8:00 am
The Unknown Revealed**



Paul Preaches in Athens

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 S Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-338-5226
www.zlcsf.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

AS WE GATHER

Our Bible Reading of the Day is Acts 17:16-34. As Paul waits for the other disciples to join him in Athens, he spends time in discussion with philosophers and others in the marketplace. Many temples and altars fill the city of Athens, including an altar dedicated to the “unknown god.” One day, Paul speaks at the Areopagus—also called Mars Hill. He uses the altar to the unknown god as an opportunity to teach the people concerning the true God.

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

OPENING HYMN: LSB 506 Glory Be to God the Father

- 1 Glory be to God the Father,
 Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
 Great Jehovah, Three in One!
 Glory, glory
 While eternal ages run!

- 2 Glory be to Him who loved us,
 Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
 Made us kings with Him to reign!

Glory, glory
To the Lamb that once was slain!

3 Glory to the King of angels,
Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
Glory, glory
To the King of glory sing!

4 Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
Thus its praise creation brings.
Glory, glory,
Glory to the King of kings!

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our gracious God has promised to hear us for Jesus' sake when we call out for pardon and peace. Let us go to Him, confessing our sins.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we admit that we have often put our own wills ahead of Yours. In our pride we have demanded reasons from You for what has gone wrong in our lives. We have not called out to You in all humility but have relied on our own righteousness instead of asking You for mercy and grace. We have let the turmoil of the world

around us distract us from keeping our lives focused on Your strong Word and the salvation it proclaims. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive us. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, move us to paths in which we may serve You and proclaim Your saving Word to those who do not know Your loving promises.

Pastor: Although God's Law condemns us in our fallen condition, with all our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds, He has promised that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

THE INTROIT: Psalm 66:8-20 Antiphon vs 8

Pastor: Praise our God, all peoples,

People: let the sound of his praise be heard;

Pastor: he has preserved our lives

People: and kept our feet from slipping.

Pastor: For you, God, tested us;

People: you refined us like silver.

Pastor: You brought us into prison

People: and laid burdens on our backs.

Pastor: You let people ride over our heads;

People: we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Pastor: I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—

People: vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

Pastor: I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams;

People: I will offer bulls and goats

Pastor: Come and hear, all you who fear God;

People: let me tell you what he has done for me.

Pastor: I cried out to him with my mouth;

People: his praise was on my tongue

Pastor: If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

People: but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.

Pastor: Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer

People: or withheld his love from me!

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: Praise our God, all peoples,

People: let the sound of his praise be heard;

KYRIE

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.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ZION CHOIR: “The Son of God in Tears”

TIME IN THE WORD

READING OF THE DAY: Acts 17:16-33

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So, he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) Paul then stood up

in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So, you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ “Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: LSB 556 (verses 1-4)

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice

And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

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 811

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

- 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.

- 2 O all you pow'rs that He implanted,
Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.

- 3 You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make His glory known.

- 4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,

Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost powers can never quite
Declare the wonders of His might.

- 5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

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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 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

- 1 Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving.
May His will in us be done.
- 2 Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ's humility,

Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.

- 3 Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life's end.

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SEND OFF

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

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!