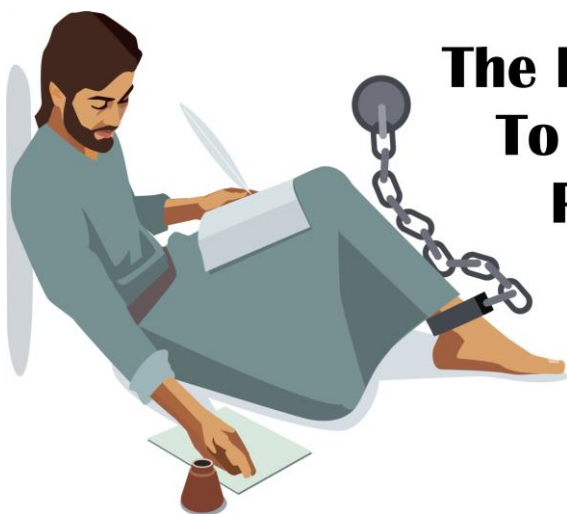


**Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
8:00 am
Paul's Prison Protection**



**The Plot
To Kill
Paul**

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 23:12–24. When Paul’s nephew overhears a plot by the Jews to assassinate Paul, he tells Paul, who tells his prison guards. They take the young man to the Roman tribune, who takes action to protect Paul from the plot. Now guarded by at least 470 soldiers, spearmen, and horsemen, Paul is safely moved to Caesarea to await a hearing before Governor Felix.

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

OPENING HYMN: LSB 744 Amazing Grace

- 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 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;

His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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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: Let us now make confession of our sins to God.

Pastor: Beloved of God, let us confess together that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that daily we have sinned against our gracious God and deserve His punishment now and eternally. We have sought our own ways and have not always kept the Sabbath in ways that honor Him. We have transgressed His Law in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins and seek Your mercy. Be gracious to us, and for the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we find the joy of absolution and with renewed hearts serve You in time and in eternity.

Pastor: God is gracious and forgiving. He has shown His merciful power in ways that renew, restore, and heal. To those who come to Him with repentant and contrite hearts, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. 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: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE INTROIT: Psalm 48 Antiphon vs 1

Pastor: Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,

People: in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

Pastor: Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth,

People: like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

Pastor: God is in her citadels;

People: he has shown himself to be her fortress.

Pastor: When the kings joined forces, when they advanced together,

People: they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

Pastor: Trembling seized them there, pain like that of a woman in labor.

People: You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish, shattered by an east wind.

Pastor: As we have heard, so we have seen in the city of the LORD Almighty

People: in the city of our God: God makes her secure forever.

Pastor: Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love.

People: Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;

Pastor: Your right hand is filled with righteousness

People: Mount Zion rejoices.

Pastor: The villages of Judah are glad

People: because of your judgments.

Pastor: Walk about Zion, go around her,

People: count her towers, consider well her ramparts,

Pastor: view her citadels,

People: that you may tell of them to the next generation.

Pastor: For this God is our God for ever and ever;

People: he will be our guide even to the end.

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: Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,

People: in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

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: Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ZION CHOIR “Scenes From A Solemn Cross”

TIME IN THE WORD

READING OF THE DAY: Acts 23:12-24

The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul. More than forty men were involved in this plot. They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here.” But when the son of Paul’s sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.” So, he took him to the commander. The centurion said,

“Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.” The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?” He said: “Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him. Don’t give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request.” The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.” Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight. Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: LSB 839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error’s maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav’nly rest.

- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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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 524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.
- 4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.
- 5 How weak the effort of my heart,
How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

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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 535 How Wide the Love of Christ

- 1 How wide the love of Christ!
It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace.
- 2 How long the love of Christ!
Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace.
- 3 How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.
- 4 How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.
- 5 All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!

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THE GIDEONS

SEND OFF

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

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!