

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

10:30 am

The Unknown Revealed – Paul Preaches in Athens

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 South Duluth Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

www.zionlutheransf.com

 **Zion Lutheran Sioux Falls**

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.

OPENING PRAISE SONG: The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours) Bryan Fowler | Jacob Sooter | Matt Maher CCLI Song # 7200544

Verse

Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

Chorus

Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come

Verse

Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

Chorus

Give us this day our daily bread Forgive us forgive us
As we forgive the ones who sinned Against us forgive them
And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from the evil one
Let your kingdom come

Bridge

It's Yours it's Yours All Yours all Yours The kingdom the power
The glory are Yours It's Yours it's Yours All Yours all Yours
Forever and ever The kingdom is Yours
(Repeat Bridge)

Verse

Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart
Father let Your kingdom come Father let Your will be done
On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

Ending

On Earth as in Heaven Right here in my heart

WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

INVOCATION

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

PRAISE SONG: "There Is One Gospel" Jonny Robinson | Rich Thompson

Verse 1

There is one Gospel on which I stand For all eternity
It is my story my Father's plan The Son has rescued me

Oh what a Gospel oh what a peace My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

There is one Gospel to which I cling All else I count as loss
For there where justice and mercy meet He saved me on the cross

No more I boast in what I can bring No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 3

There is one Gospel where hope is found The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Savior down He lives and I am free

Now on my Savior I fix my eyes My life is His and His hope is mine

For He has promised I too will rise I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 4

And in this Gospel the church is one We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on To lead us safely home

And when in glory still I will sing Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Savior the King of life I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Ending

And when in glory still I will sing Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Savior the King of life I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to my Savior the King of life I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ CCLI Song # 7199817

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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 babbling 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.

Here ends the Reading.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God; the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose again according to the

Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING SONG: Love Of God

Benjamin Hastings, Brandon Lake, Cody Carnes, Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7241154

Verse 1

It’s so good I almost can’t believe it
Far beyond what hearts could ever dream
The God who set the galaxies in motion
Would descend to give His life for me
For what could make perfection bleed for sinners
What leads a King to pay so great a cost
All my life my heart will sing the answer
Only the love of God

Chorus 1

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior’s praise
How great is the love of God

Verse 2

It’s so kind it leads us to repentance
It’s so bright the darkness has to flee
Hallelujah it cleared my guilty sentence
For I was bound but now I stand redeemed
For what could break the chains of any prison
What force could rob the power from the grave
What would trade my rags for heaven’s riches
Only the love of God

Chorus 1

Verse 3

Though I try my mind can't comprehend it
It's so high too marvelous for words
I could sing a million songs about it
And barely scratch the surface of Your worth
This all my life the banner I'll be waving
My anthem cry no matter what may come
And when I rise to walk the streets of heaven
I'll still be singing this song
For everything that You've done
How great the love of God

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

Singing oh how great is the love of God
He paid our debt on that rugged cross
For all our days we will sing our Savior's praise
How great is the love of God
How great is the love of God

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

COMMUNION SONG: "Remembrance" - Matt Maher and Matt Redman

Verse 1

Oh, how could it be
That my God would welcome me into this mystery
Say take this bread, take this wine
Now the simple made divine for any to receive

Pre-chorus

By Your mercy, we come to Your table
By Your grace, You are making us faithful

Chorus

Lord, we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

Verse 2

See His body, See His blood
Know that He has overcome every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed, all are welcome in this place

Pre-chorus

By Your mercy, we come to Your table
By Your grace, You are making us faithful

Chorus

Lord, we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

Bridge

Dying You destroyed our death Rising You restored our life
Lord Jesus, come in glory Lord Jesus, come in glory
Lord Jesus, come in glory Lord Jesus, come in glory

Pre-chorus

By Your mercy, we come to Your table
By Your grace, You are making us faithful

Chorus

Lord, we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You

COMMUNION SONG: “The Same Power” Jeremy Camp, Jason Ingram

Verse 1

I can see Waters raging at my feet
I can feel The breath of those surrounding me
I can hear The sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Verse 2

I can walk Down this dark and painful road
I can face Every fear of the unknown
I can hear All God’s children singing out
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

Verse 3

We have hope That His promises are true
In His strength There is nothing we can’t do
Yes, we know There are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken We will not be overcome

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks

The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

Bridge

Greater is He that is living in me He’s conquered our enemy
No power of darkness No weapon prevails We stand here in victory In victory

Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us, lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us, lives in us He lives in us, lives in us

DISMISSAL of the COMMUNICANTS and PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: House of The Lord Jonathan Smith | Phil Wickham CCLI Song #7168995

Verse 1

We worship the God who was We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory

Chorus

There’s joy in the house of the Lord
There’s joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won’t be quiet We shout out Your praise
There’s joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won’t be quiet We shout out Your praise

Interlude

We shout out Your praise

Verse 2

We sing to the God who heals We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

Chorus

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

Bridge

We were the beggars Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise!

Bridge

('Cause) We were the beggars Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners Now we're running free
We are forgiven, accepted Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise!

Chorus

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

Chorus

There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet We shout out Your praise

SEND OFF

Leader: At Zion we are committed to reaching out, strengthening the saved,
All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!