

**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**The Fall-Short Report – The Twelve Spies**  
**February 15, 2026**  
**8:00 am**



Zion Lutheran Church  
1400 S Duluth Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
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[www.zlcsf.org](http://www.zlcsf.org)

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **AS WE GATHER**

Our Bible Reading of the Day is Numbers 13:1–2, 25–14:24. Moses chooses one man from each of the twelve tribes and sends them to spy on the land God has promised. The spies report a land of great plenty but occupied by mighty, fearsome people. Despite Caleb and Joshua's pleas to seize the land promised to them, the people rebel. Moses pleads for mercy, and God promises to care for His people. At the same time, He condemns the Israelites to forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Of all the adults, only Joshua and Caleb will live to enter the Promised Land.

### **WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREET ONE ANOTHER**

**OPENING HYMN:** LSB 750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

- 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
And hope in Him through all thy ways,  
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,  
And bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
- 2 What can these anxious cares avail thee,  
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?  
What can it help if thou bewail thee  
O'er each dark moment as it flies?  
Our cross and trials do but press  
The heavier for our bitterness.
- 3 Be patient and await His leisure  
In cheerful hope, with heart content

To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure  
And His discerning love hath sent,  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known  
To Him who chose us for His own.

4 God knows full well when times of gladness  
Shall be the needful thing for thee.

When He has tried thy soul with sadness  
And from all guile has found thee free,  
He comes to thee all unaware  
And makes thee own His loving care.

5 Nor think amid the fiery trial  
That God hath cast thee off unheard,

That he whose hopes meet no denial  
Must surely be of God preferred.  
Time passes and much change doth bring  
And sets a bound to ev'rything.

6 All are alike before the Highest;  
'Tis easy for our God, we know,  
To raise thee up, though low thou liest,  
To make the rich man poor and low.  
True wonders still by Him are wrought  
Who setteth up and brings to naught.

7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,  
Perform thy duties faithfully,

And trust His Word; though undeserving,  
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.  
God never yet forsook in need  
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

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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: Sin has separated every person from God. Our hearts are dark with sin. Each person needs the light of Jesus' love and forgiveness in their hearts. Let us confess our sins before Jesus, our Savior, the Light of the world.

**People: Lord God, we confess that we are sinners. Our hearts are dark and we are separated from You. We make mistakes. We hurt those we love. We have failed to live in a way that reflects Your light in the world. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us. Strengthen and transform us by Your Holy Spirit, so that we may reflect the light of Jesus to others.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.**

**INTROIT:** Psalm 95:1-11; Antiphon verse 8a

Pastor: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**People: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

Pastor: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

**People: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

Pastor: The sea is his, for he made it,

**People: and his hands formed the dry land.**

Pastor: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

**People: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

Pastor: Today, if only you would hear his voice, “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,

**People: as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me;**

Pastor: they tried me,

**People: though they had seen what I did.**

Pastor: For forty years I was angry with that generation;

**People: I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways.’**

Pastor: So, I declared on oath in my anger,

**People: ‘They shall never enter my rest.’**

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: “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,

**People: as you did that day at Massah.**

## **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.**

**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: Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul,**

**may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **TIME IN THE WORD**

**Children's Bible Reading:** Page 112

**The Reading of the Day:** Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:24

The Lord said to Moses, "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." At the end of forty days, they returned from exploring the land. They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to each other,

“We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. Joshua, son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.” Moses said to the Lord, “Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, Lord, are with these people and that you, Lord, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ‘The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’ ‘Now may the Lord’s strength be displayed, just as you have declared: ‘The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’ In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now.” The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their

ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN**: LSB 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

(verses 1-4, 7)

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving  
To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit  
I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,  
O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver  
From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 4 Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav'nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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## **THE SERMON**

### **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 | TREASURE BOX | PRAYER CARDS**

### **OFFERING HYMN: LSB 664 Fight the Good Fight**

- 1 Fight the good fight with all your might;  
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Your joy and crown eternally.
  
- 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
  
- 3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove  
Christ is your life and Christ your love.
  
- 4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;  
He changes not who holds you dear;  
Only believe, and you will see  
That Christ is all eternally.

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## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary.....evermore  
praising you and singing:

**People (sing): Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **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.**

### **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

#### **PAX DOMINI**

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

**People: Amen.**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

**People (sing): Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the  
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin  
of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away  
the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 620 (verses 1-4)

#### Jesus Comes Today with Healing

- 1 Jesus comes today with healing,  
Knocking at my door, appealing,  
    Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation:  
    "Come and taste the blessed feast."
  
- 2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
    In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
    Of His sacred covenant.
  
- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
    Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
    Hung upon the cursèd tree.
  
- 4 God descends with heavenly power,  
Gives Himself to me this hour  
    In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing  
    That I taste His love divine.

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### COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
- 2 Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
- 3 Fair is the sunshine,  
Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.
- 4 Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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**COMMUNION HYMN**: LSB 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended. O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us,  
With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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## **DISMISSAL and PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN:** LSB 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises

I will ever give to Thee;

I will ever give to Thee.

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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!**