

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The Unlikely Ally – Rahab Believes  
February 22, 2026  
10:30 am

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

[www.zionlutheransf.com](http://www.zionlutheransf.com)

 Zion Lutheran Sioux Falls

## AS WE GATHER

Our Bible Reading of the Day is Joshua 2. As they prepare to enter the Promised Land, Joshua sends two spies to explore Jericho. Rahab, a prostitute, first hides the spies from the authorities, and later she helps them escape out her window in the city wall. Because of her faithfulness, the spies promise to spare Rahab and her family when the Israelites come to occupy the city. God saved His spies in Jericho through the unlikely and unexpected Rahab. God has saved us, His people today, through the unexpected and undeserved sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

## OPENING PRAISE SONG: I Believe

Chris Davenport, Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham  
CCLI Song #7218424

### Verse 1

I believe there is one salvation  
One doorway that leads to life  
One redemption One confession  
I believe in the name of Jesus Christ

### Verse 2

I believe in the crucifixion  
By His blood I have been set free  
I believe in the resurrection  
Hallelujah His life is death's defeat

### Chorus

All praise to God the Father  
All praise to Christ the Son

All praise to the Holy Spirit  
Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

### Verse 3

I believe in the hope of heaven  
He's preparing a place for me  
Far beyond what hearts imagine  
Ears have heard or eyes have seen

### Verse 4

I believe that day is coming  
He's returning to claim His bride  
Light the altar keep it burning  
See the Lamb who rose a roaring Lion

### Chorus

All praise to God the Father  
All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit  
Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

### Bridge

No, I'll never be ashamed  
of the gospel of Jesus Christ  
How could I ever walk away  
From the One who saved my life

No, I'll never be ashamed  
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### Chorus

All praise to God the Father  
All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit  
Our God has overcome

The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

**Ending**  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

## 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: Let us then come before God and each other and confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Pastor: We come humbly before You, O Lord, recognizing that we have not always responded to Your grace in faithfulness and obedience. Often, we feel we deserve more or better, forgetting and rejecting Your Word and Your works of salvation.

**People: At times, we are lured by the world's deceptions, consumed by greed, passion, and desire. We fail to be thoroughly grounded in Your Word. Forgive us, dear Lord, for rejoicing in the temporal treasures on earth instead of the eternal treasures of heaven.**

Pastor: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

**People: Forgive my impatience and my neglect. By Your Spirit, lead me to greater faith, obedience, service, and repentance until Your call to eternal glory comes.**

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!**

**PRAISE SONG:** Your Love Defends Me Matt Maher

### Verse 1

You are my joy, You are my song  
You are the well, the One I'm drawing from  
You are my refuge, my whole life long  
Where else would I go?

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me  
And when I feel like I'm all alone  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Verse 2

Day after day, night after night  
I will remember, You're with me in this fight  
Although the battle, it rages on  
The war already won  
I know the war is already won

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me  
And when I feel like I'm all alone  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Bridge

We sing Hallelujah You're my portion  
My salvation Hallelujah

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

And when I feel like I'm all alone  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

And when I feel like I'm all alone  
Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Bridge

We sing Hallelujah You're my portion  
My salvation Hallelujah  
You're my portion My salvation  
Hallelujah You're my portion My salvation

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**All: O God, whose mercy knows no bounds and whose grace reaches into the most unlikely places: We thank You for the faith of Rahab, who welcomed Your messengers and trusted in Your power when her own world was shaking. Grant us a similar courage, that we may not be defined by our past sins but by Your present promise. Keep us under the shadow of Your protection—the true scarlet cord of our Savior's blood—that we may be found faithful when You come to claim Your own; 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 130

**Reading of the Day:** Joshua 2

Then Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So, they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So, the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't

know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) So, the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. "Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death." "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land." So, she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. She said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return and then go on your way." Now the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. If any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear." "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So, she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua, son of Nun, and told him everything that had happened to them. They said to Joshua, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

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 | TREASURE BOX

### OFFERING SONG: "At the Cross" (Love Ran Red)

Tomlin | Cash | Armstrong | Myrin | Redman

#### **Verse 1**

There's a place Where mercy reigns and never dies  
There's a place Where streams of grace flow deep and wide  
Where all the love I've ever found  
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

#### **Chorus 1**

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life

#### **Verse 2**

I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus

#### **Chorus 1**

There's a place Where sin and shame are powerless  
Where my heart Has peace with God and forgiveness  
Where all the love I've ever found  
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

#### **Bridge**

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You

#### **Bridge**

Here my hope is found Here on holy ground  
Here I bow down here I bow down  
Here arms open wide Here You saved my life  
Here I bow down here I bow down

#### **Chorus 1**

Here my hope is found Here on holy ground  
Here I bow down here I bow down  
Here arms open wide Here You saved my life  
Here I bow down here I bow down

#### **Chorus 1**

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You  
I owe all to You I owe all to You Jesus

## 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

**COMMUNION SONG:** "Come As You Are" © David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover

### Verse 1

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy Oh sinner, come kneel

Earth has no sorrow That Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow That Heaven can't heal

### Chorus

So, lay down your burdens Lay down your shame  
All who are broken Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer, come home You're not too far  
So, lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are

### Verse 2

There's hope for the hopeless And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table Come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow That Heaven can't cure

### Chorus

So, lay down your burdens Lay down your shame  
All who are broken Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer, come home You're not too far  
So, lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are

### Bridge

### Verse 3

There's joy for the morning Oh sinner, be still  
Earth has no sorrow That Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow That Heaven can't heal

### Chorus

So, lay down your burdens Lay down your shame  
All who are broken Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer, come home You're not too far  
So, lay down your hurt Lay down your heart Come as you are  
Come as you are Come as you are Come as you are

### Ending

**COMMUNION SONG:** God Really Loves Us Glover | Bowe | Crowder | Sojka

### Verse 1

I've got a friend Closer than a brother There is no judgement  
Oh how He loves me I've got a friend  
And He is my strength He is my portion With me in the valley  
With me in the fire With me in the storm

### Pre-chorus

Let all my life testify

### Chorus

Hallelujah We are not alone God really loves us God really loves us Hallelujah  
Oh praise my soul God really loves us God really loves us

### Verse 2

His mercy's enough His grace is sufficient So come if you're needing  
Forgiveness or healing His mercy's enough  
Oh, and this is our hope The cross it has spoken Death is no more  
Christ is the Lord Oh this is our hope

**Chorus**

Hallelujah We are not alone God really loves us God really loves us Hallelujah  
Oh praise my soul God really loves us God really loves us

**Instrumental**

Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!

**Bridge**

What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is  
What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is

**Chorus**

Hallelujah We are not alone God really loves us God really loves us Hallelujah  
Oh praise my soul God really loves us God really loves us

**Bridge**

What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is  
What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is

**Bridge**

What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is  
What a Father What a Friend What a Savior He is

CCLI Song # 7174815

**DISMISSAL of the COMMUNICANTS and PRAYER****BENEDICTION****CLOSING SONG:** Take You At Your Word

Aodhan King, Benjamin Hastings, Cody Carnes CCLI Song #7206632

**Verse 1**

Your word is a lamp unto my feet  
Your way is the only way for me  
It's a narrow road that leads to life  
But I want to be on it  
It's a narrow road but the mercy's wide  
'Cause You're good on Your promise

**Chorus**

**I'll take You at Your Word**  
**If You said it I'll believe it**  
**I've seen how good it works**

**If You start it You'll complete it**

**I'll take You at Your Word**

**Verse 2**

You spoke and the chaos fell in line  
I know 'cause I've seen it in my life  
It's a narrow road that leads to life  
But I want to be on it  
It's a narrow road the tide is high  
But You parted the water

**Chorus X2****Bridge**

You said Your love will never give up  
You said Your grace is always enough  
You said Your heart would never forget or forsake me

You said I'm saved You call me Yours  
You said my future's full of Your hope  
You've never failed so I know that You'll never fail me

**Chorus X2****Ending:**

You're good on Your promise  
I'll take You at Your Word

**SEND OFF**

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