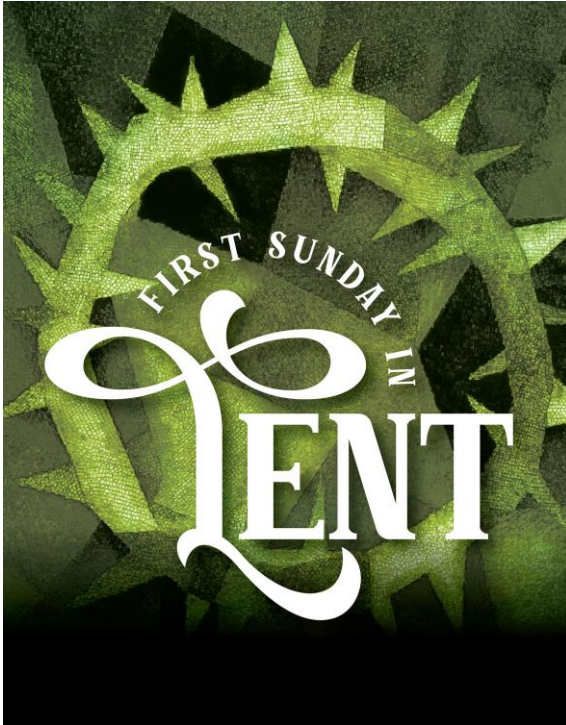


**FIRST SUNDAY in LENT**  
**The Unlikely Ally – Rahab Believes**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**8:00 am**



Zion Lutheran Church  
1400 S Duluth Ave  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
605-338-5226  
[www.zlcsf.org](http://www.zlcsf.org)

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **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.

### **WELCOME | ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GREET ONE ANOTHER**

### **OPENING HYMN:** LSB 902 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;  
Our hearts in true devotion bow.  
Your Spirit send with light divine,  
And let Your truth within us shine.
- 2 Unseal our lips to sing Your praise  
In endless hymns through all our days.  
Increase our faith and light our minds;  
And set us free from doubt that blinds.
- 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,  
“O holy, holy Lord Most High!”  
And in the light of that blest place  
We then shall see You face to face.

- 4 All glory to the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise throughout eternity!

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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 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!**

**INTROIT**: Psalm 113:1-2, 7-8 Antiphon verse 1

Pastor: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you, his servants; praise the name of the LORD.

**People: Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.**

Pastor: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;

**People: he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.**

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 the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants;

**People: praise the name of the LORD.**

**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: 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.”

Reader: This Is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

#### **SERMON HYMN:** LSB 644 The Church’s One Foundation

- 1   The Church’s one foundation  
      Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
      She is His new creation  
      By water and the Word.  
      From heav’n He came and sought her  
      To be His holy bride;  
      With His own blood He bought her,  
      And for her life He died.
- 2   Elect from ev’ry nation,  
      Yet one o’er all the earth;  
      Her charter of salvation:  
      One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
      One holy name she blesses,  
      Partakes one holy food,  
      And to one hope she presses  
      With ev’ry grace endued.

3    Though with a scornful wonder  
      The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
      By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
      Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
      Shall be the morn of song.

4    Through toil and tribulation  
      And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation  
      Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious  
      Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
      Shall be the Church at rest.

5    Yet she on earth has union  
      With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
      With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus!  
      Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us,  
      May see You face to face.

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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 | TREASURE BOX**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** “Come, Come Unto Me”

## **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 933 My Soul Rejoices

1 My soul rejoices,  
My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior  
Has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing  
God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

- 2 His arm now baring,  
His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters,  
Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted;  
The meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry;  
Empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token  
All that was spoken  
To Abr'ham's offspring  
God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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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!**