

Wednesday Lenten Series
March 4, 2026
10:00 am and 6:30 pm



Zion Lutheran Church
1400 S Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-338-5226
www.zlcsf.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

OPENING WORDS

Pastor: The story of the Judges confronts us with the weight of repeated failure. Israel falls into sin, cries out, is rescued—and then collapses again. These cycles reveal not merely bad habits but a deeper spiritual truth: left to ourselves, we return to the same sins, the same patterns, the same brokenness. Yet in every generation, God raises a deliverer—lifted up for a moment, empowered by His Spirit—to rescue His people. These imperfect saviors point ahead to the One who will break the cycle forever.

OPENING HYMN: LSB 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
 Sinners, ruined by the fall;
 Here a pure and healing fountain
 Flows for you, for me, for all,
 In a full, perpetual tide,
 Opened when our Savior died.

- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,
 Come defiled, without, within;
 From infection and uncleanness,
 From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
 Ye shall walk with God in light.

- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
 Wounded, impotent, and blind;
 Here the guilty, free remission,
 Here the troubled, peace may find.

Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
 God is faithful; God will never
 Break His covenant of blood,
 Signed when our Redeemer died,
 Sealed when He was glorified.

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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
People: so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: But He was wounded for our transgressions;
People: He was crushed for our iniquities;

Pastor: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
People: and with His stripes we are healed.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another. With humble hearts, let us pray together:

People: Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

Pastor: Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life.

People: Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—

Pastor: to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

People: With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures our lives belong to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

PSALM: Psalm 106:34-48

Pastor: They did not destroy the peoples, as the Lord commanded them,

People: But they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did.

Pastor: They served their idols, which became a snare to them.

People: They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons;

Pastor: They poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,

People: And the land was polluted with blood.

Pastor: Thus, they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds.

People: Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage;

Pastor: He gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them.

People: Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power.

Pastor: Many times, he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity.

People: Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry.

Pastor: For their sake he remembered his covenant,

People: And relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

Pastor: He caused them to be pitied by all those who held them captive.

People: Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations,

Pastor: That we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

People: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

All: And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, You have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with Your mighty power that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in

adversity; in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of Your purpose; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Judges 2:6-23

After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel. Joshua, son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands. Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn

ways. Therefore, the Lord was very angry with Israel and said, “Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their ancestors did.” The Lord had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason, he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Please rise out of respect for the words and ministry of Jesus Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30

Pastor: This is the Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a

few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Pastor: This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (6:30 pm only)

SERMON HYMN: LSB 719 I Leave All Things to God’s Direction

- 1 I leave all things to God’s direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon His hands He did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul’s salvation;
My soul He, too, desires to save.

Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

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THE SERMON

OFFERING | TREASURE BOX (6:30 pm only)

HYMN: LSB 730 What Is the World to Me (10 am only)

- 1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!
- 3 The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers

Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:
My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

- 4 What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

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CHOIR ANTHEM: “Is This the King?” (6:30 only)

LENTEN PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

People: Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

Pastor: Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

People: that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

People: Enable us to see that we are the salt of the earth, preserved by Your grace and sweetened by Your forgiveness.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [especially . . .], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

People: All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER (10 am only)

All: I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (6:30 pm only)

**All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and
I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I ha
ve done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into
Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all
things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may
have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 433 Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,
 Who in bitter pains
 Poured for me the lifeblood
 From His sacred veins!

- 2 Grace and life eternal
 In that blood I find;
 Blest be His compassion,
 Infinitely kind!

- 3 Blest through endless ages
 Be the precious stream
 Which from endless torment
 Did the world redeem!

- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance
 Pleaded to the skies;
 But the blood of Jesus
 For our pardon cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,

Angel hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood!

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