

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**The Weakened Judge - Samson**  
**March 15, 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 Judges 16:4-31. God grants Samson great strength to defeat the enemies of God's people. Seeking to overcome Samson, the Philistines bribe Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. Samson deceives Delilah each time she tries to uncover the secret, but he finally reveals the key to his power. Shorn and blinded by the Philistines, Samson is brought to entertain thousands of revelers at the feast to Dagon. Identifying the house's supporting pillars, Samson prays, and God grants him power to bring down the temple, killing everyone. Samson's death brought about the temporal rescue of God's people. Jesus' sinless sacrifice and death brought about the eternal rescue of God's people from eternal death.

**OPENING PRAISE 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  
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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

## WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GREET ONE ANOTHER

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## PRAAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"

**People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to you that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAISE SONG:** Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

### Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His  
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side the Savior He will stay  
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need His power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley He will lead  
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven  
The future sure the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For He has said that He will bring me home  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to Him  
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me  
(Repeat)

### Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me Yet not I but through Christ in me

Song # 7121852

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**All: Father, we pray to You in one Spirit through one Lord, Jesus Christ, who has made us one new man through His shed blood. Thank You for raising us from the dead and making us alive with Christ, who is seated in the heavens. Help us to move forward as one people united in mission to reach the nations with the message of Your reconciling love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Children's Bible Reading:** Page 142

**The Reading of the Day:** Judges 16:4-31

Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver." So, Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued." Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man." Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So, the secret of his strength was not discovered. Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied." He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man." So,

Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads. Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied." He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So, while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin. Again, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric. Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it. So, he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man." When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So, the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands." When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, "Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain." While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So, they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them,

his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus, he killed many more when he died than while he lived. Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years. Here ends the Reading.

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **MESSAGE**

### **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 | PRAYER CARDS**

### **OFFERING SONG: Firm Foundation (He Won't)**

Austin Davis, Chandler Moore, Cody Carnes      CCLI Song #7188203

Verse 1

Christ is my firm foundation  
The rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken  
I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus  
'Cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations  
So why would He fail now

Chorus 1

He won't  
He won't

Verse 2

I've still got joy in chaos  
I've got peace that makes no sense  
So, I won't be going under  
I'm not held by my own strength  
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus  
He's never let me down  
He's faithful in every season  
So why would He fail now

Chorus 2

He won't  
He won't  
He won't fail  
He won't fail

Bridge

Rain came and wind blew  
But my house was built on You  
I'm safe with You  
I'm going to make it through  
Rain came and wind blew  
But my house was built on You  
I'm safe with You  
I'm going to make it through  
I'm going to make it through  
'cause my house was built on You

Verse 1

Chorus 3

He won't  
He won't  
He won't fail  
He won't fail  
He won't

## 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.

### BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: "We Believe" Hooper | Fike | Ryan

#### Verse 1

In this time of desperation When all we know is doubt and fear  
There is only one foundation We believe We believe

In this broken generation When all is dark You help us see  
There is only one salvation We believe We believe

#### Chorus

We believe in God the Father We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection And He's coming back again  
We believe

#### Verse 2

So let our faith be more than anthems Greater than the songs we sing  
In our weakness and temptations We believe We believe

#### Chorus

We believe in God the Father We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection And He's coming back again

#### Bridge

Let the lost be found and the dead be raised  
In the here and now let love invade  
Let the church live loud our God we'll say  
We believe

And the gates of hell will not prevail  
For the pow'r of God has torn the veil  
Now we know Your love will never fail  
We believe We believe

#### Chorus

We believe in God the Father We believe in Jesus Christ  
We believe in the Holy Spirit And He's given us new life  
We believe in the crucifixion We believe that He conquered death  
We believe in the resurrection And He's coming back

#### Ending

He's coming back again He's coming back again  
We believe We believe

### SEND OFF

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