

FOURTH SUNDAY in LENT
The Weakened Judge - Samson
March 15, 2026
8:00 am



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: LSB 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,

From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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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: 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: 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 107:1-9; Antiphon verse 9

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

People: his love endures forever.

Pastor: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—

People: those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

Pastor: those he gathered from the lands,

People: from east and west, from north and south.

Pastor: Some wandered in desert wastelands,

People: finding no way to a city where they could settle.

Pastor: They were hungry and thirsty,

People: and their lives ebbed away.

Pastor: Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,

People: and he delivered them from their distress.

Pastor: He led them by a straight way

People: to a city where they could settle.

Pastor: Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love

People: and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

Pastor: for he satisfies the thirsty

People: and fills the hungry with good things.

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: for he satisfies the thirsty

People: and fills the hungry with good things.

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: 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.

TIME IN THE WORD

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG: LSB 437 Alas and Did My Savior Bleed

- 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my sov’ reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For His own creatures' sin.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.
- 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.

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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 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

- 1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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 HYMN: LSB 623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did
Choose Thee

- 1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.

- 2 It was grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee;
For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee,
Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

- 3 Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

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COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains

Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

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DISMISSAL, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 801 How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Refrain

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”
Refrain

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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!