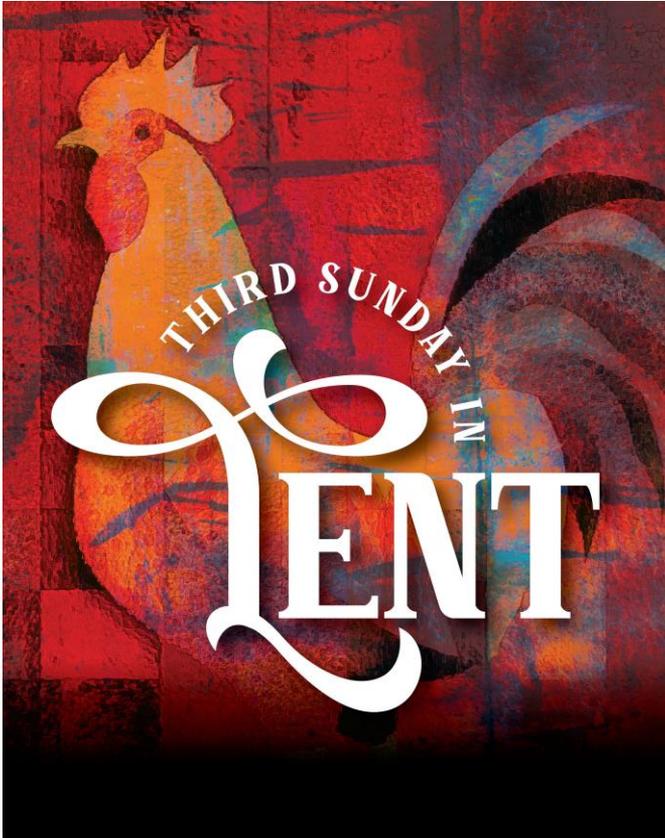


3rd SUNDAY in LENT
The Palm Tree Judge - Deborah
March 8, 2026
8:00 am



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 4. Judge Deborah urges Barak to gather 10,000 troops to go up against Sisera's army of 900 iron chariots. When the battle turns against Sisera, he flees on foot, seeking refuge in Jael's tent. Snoozing beneath a rug, Sisera meets his end at the hand of Jael as she pegs him through his temple to the ground. In Christ, God chose to use the foolish things of the world to shame the wise. In Him, we poor sinners are brought high and given a new identity that will never fade.

WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREET ONE ANOTHER

OPENING HYMN: LSB 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

- 1 Today Your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

- 2 Today Your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Public domain

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: Most merciful God,

People: I confess to almighty God our Father that I have sinned by allowing other things to become more important to me than God. I have trusted more in myself, my possessions, my works, and my own desires. I confess that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. Therefore I pray that He come to me in His Word and Spirit to forgive me and enlighten and keep me in the true faith. 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.

INTROIT: Psalm 46; Antiphon verse 1

Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,

People: an ever-present help in trouble.

Pastor: Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way

People: and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

Pastor: though its waters roar and foam

People: and the mountains quake with their surging.

Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

People: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

Pastor: God is within her; she will not fall;

People: God will help her at break of day.

Pastor: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;

People: he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Pastor: The Lord Almighty is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: Come and see what the Lord has done,

People: the desolations he has brought on the earth.

Pastor: He makes wars cease

People: to the ends of the earth.

Pastor: He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;

People: he burns the shields with fire.

Pastor: He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;

People: I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

Pastor: The Lord Almighty is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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: God is our refuge and strength,

People: an ever-present help in trouble.

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 know the Gospel Mission is dangerous work. Even if we don't feel it, our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world do. You sent Your Son into this danger, and He willingly laid down His life so that we might take up ours for eternity. Help us to trust in Your care and protection as we proclaim the praises of our Savior, Jesus. And even if Your will leads us to pain or death, may we be bold and faithful, knowing that our resurrection awaits and eternal life with You will be our reward. In the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Is This the King?”

TIME IN THE WORD

Children's Bible Reading: Page 292

Reading of the Day: Judges 4

Again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. So, the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help.

Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’” Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.” “Certainly, I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a

woman.” So, Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh. There Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali, and ten thousand men went up under his command. Deborah also went up with him.

Now Heber the Kenite had left the other Kenites, the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ brother-in-law, and pitched his tent by the great tree in Zaanannim near Kedesh. When they told Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor, Sisera summoned from Harosheth Haggoyim to the Kishon River all his men and his nine hundred chariots fitted with iron. Then Deborah said to Barak, “Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of you?” So, Barak went down Mount Tabor, with ten thousand men following him. At Barak’s advance, the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera got down from his chariot and fled on foot.

Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera’s troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite. Jael went out to meet Sisera and said to him, “Come, my lord, come right in. Don’t be afraid.” So, he entered her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. “I’m thirsty,” he said. “Please give me some water.” She opened a skin of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him up. “Stand in the doorway of the tent,” he told her. “If someone comes by and asks you, ‘Is anyone in there?’ say ‘No.’” But Jael, Heber’s wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died. Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. “Come,” she said, “I will show you the man you’re looking for.” So, he went in with her, and there lay Sisera with the tent peg through his temple—dead. On that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites. And the hand of the Israelites pressed harder and harder against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

Reader: This Is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

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 HYMN: LSB 567 Not What These Hands Have Done

- 1 Not what these hands have done
Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne
Can make my spirit whole.
- 2 Not what I feel or do
Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears
Can bear my awful load.
- 3 Thy work alone, O Christ,
Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,
Can give me peace within.
- 4 Thy love to me, O God,
Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,

Can rid me of this dark unrest
And set my spirit free.

5 Thy grace alone, O God,
To me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,
Can this sore bondage break.

6 I bless the Christ of God,
I rest on love divine,
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart
I call this Savior mine.

Text: Public domain

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 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: Public domain

SEND OFF

Pastor: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out,
strengthening the saved,

All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!