

## Third Sunday after Easter

April 19, 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

Consider a time in your life when someone showed you mercy. When was that, and what was it like? Perhaps it was for a late homework assignment in school, forgiveness when you dropped the ball on a project at work, or maybe even forgiving a loan of some sort. Mercy is compassion and forgiveness toward someone who either doesn't deserve it or actually deserves punishment. In the Book of Ruth we consider what it means to be shown undeserved mercy. Boaz had mercy on Ruth and Naomi. God works through Ruth and Boaz to selflessly provide for others' needs. This narrative demonstrates God's heart toward the lowly and helps set the context for David's reign. Christ has had greater mercy on us by providing forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation for His people. God works through Christ and His Means of Grace to provide His gifts. He also works through others who work His mercy in the world.

**OPENING PRAISE SONG:** "I Believe" Chris Davenport, Jonathan Smith, Phil Wickham

#### Verse 1

I believe there is one salvation One doorway that leads to life  
One redemption One confession I believe in the name of Jesus Christ

#### Verse 2

I believe in the crucifixion By His blood I have been set free  
I believe in the resurrection Hallelujah His life is death's defeat

#### Chorus

All praise to God the Father All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

#### Verse 3

I believe in the hope of heaven He's preparing a place for me  
Far beyond what hearts imagine Ears have heard or eyes have seen

#### Verse 4

I believe that day is coming He's returning to claim His bride  
Light the altar keep it burning See the Lamb who rose a roaring Lion

#### Chorus

All praise to God the Father All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe

#### Bridge

No, I'll never be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
How could I ever walk away From the One who saved my life

No, I'll never be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
How could I ever walk away From the One who saved my life

No, I'll never be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
How could I ever walk away From the One who saved my life

#### Chorus

All praise to God the Father All praise to Christ the Son  
All praise to the Holy Spirit Our God has overcome  
The King who was and is and evermore will be  
In Jesus' mighty name I believe In Jesus' mighty name I believe

CCLI Song #7218424

**WELCOME | REGISTER ATTENDANCE | PRAYER CARDS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GREET ONE ANOTHER**

**INVOCATION**

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

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

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: Gracious heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAISE SONG: "Your Love Defends Me" Matt Maher

### Verse 1

You are my joy, You are my song You are the well, the One I'm drawing from

You are my refuge, my whole life long Where else would I go?

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul

Your love defends me, Your love defends me And when I feel like I'm all alone

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Verse 2

Day after day, night after night

I will remember, You're with me in this fight

Although the battle rages on The war already won

I know the war is already won

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

And when I feel like I'm all alone

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Bridge

We sing Hallelujah You're my portion

My salvation Hallelujah

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

And when I feel like I'm all alone

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Chorus

Surely my God is the strength of my soul

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

And when I feel like I'm all alone

Your love defends me, Your love defends me

### Bridge

We sing Hallelujah You're my portion

My salvation Hallelujah

You're my portion My salvation

Hallelujah You're my portion My salvation

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**People: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, 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 144**

## **The Reading of the Day: Ruth 1:1-2:13, 4:13-17**

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!" At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to

her, "Go ahead, my daughter." So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek. Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" they answered. Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter." So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT AND TREASURE BOX**

**OFFERING SONG:** “His Mercy Is More” Matt Boswell | Matt Papa © 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns

#### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Verse 1**

What love could remember no wrongs we have done  
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Verse 2**

What patience would wait as we constantly roam  
What Father so tender is calling us home  
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Verse 3**

What riches of kindness He lavished on us  
His blood was the payment His life was the cost  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Chorus**

Praise the Lord His mercy is more Stronger than darkness new every morn  
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

#### **Ending**

Our sins they are many His mercy is more

CCLI Song # 7065053

### **SENIOR QUILT PRESENTATION AND PRAYER**

(Students and Parents and families to come forward.)

*Katelyn Clow ~ Corbin Francis ~ Kailee Heng  
Jaiden Loween ~ Olivia Olawsky*

Pastor: Dear Lord, as our seniors stand before Your altar wrapped in their quilts with their parents and family beside them, may this day remind all of us of being wrapped in and surrounded by the promises of Your Word and Sacraments and the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ.

**People: For surely, O Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield. (Psalm 5:12)**

**People: You are my hiding place, You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7)**

**People: Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trust in Him. (Psalm 32:10)**

Pastor: Lord, may these quilts also remind our seniors of being clothed with Christ in their Baptisms.

**People: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were Baptized into Christ Jesus have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27)**

Pastor: As our seniors prepare to leave their childhood home, may these quilts be a reminder of the protection and security that You give us through the promises of Your Word.

**People: Our prayer is not that You would take them out of the world, but that You would protect them from the evil one. Protect them and set them apart through the truth. Your word is truth. (John17:15, 17)**

Pastor: Thank You, Lord for the Christian faith of our seniors and for all who have encouraged and nurtured them in the faith so far in their lives: Parents, grandparents, sponsors, Sunday school teachers, camp counselors, friends, family, pastors, the members of this congregation and others.

**People: Lord, help us to remember our seniors and to continue to love, encourage, and pray for them as they may leave home for college, work, military service, or some other path.**

Pastor: Wherever our seniors may go, Lord, may the warmth which these quilts provide, remind them of their church home and their brothers and sisters in Christ and that they will never be alone for You have promised to be with them always in Your Word and Sacraments and in the fellowship of the Holy Christian Church. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**People: Amen.**

## **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:** “All the People Said Amen” Matt Maher

### **Verse 1**

You are not alone, if you are lonely  
When you feel afraid, you're not the only  
We are all the same, in need of mercy  
To be forgiven and be free

It's all you got to lean on but thank God it's all you need

### **Chorus**

And all the people said Amen, woah  
And all the people said Amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said Amen

### **Verse 2**

If you're rich or poor, well it don't matter  
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after  
We're all broken, but we're all in this together  
God knows we stumble and we fall

And He so loved the world, He sent His son to save us all

### **Chorus**

And all the people said Amen, woah  
And all the people said Amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said Amen

**Bridge**

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart  
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart  
Blessed are the people hungry for another start  
For theirs is the kingdom, the kingdom of God

**Chorus**

And all the people said Amen, woah  
And all the people said Amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said Amen

**End Chorus**

And all the people said Amen, woah  
And all the people said Amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said Amen  
And all the people said Amen

**SEND OFF**

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