



Altar copy

Sunday, April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Zion Lutheran Church
 230 Cemetery Road
 P. O. Box 4
 West Jefferson, Ohio 43162
 614 879-8107
 Jon Meister, Presider
www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the Gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing the feet of Jesus with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD MOMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One,

C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In
 ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

170 O How I Love Jesus

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
 2. It tells me of a Sav-ior's love, who died to set me free;
 3. It tells of one whose lov-ing heart can feel my deep-est woe;

it sounds like mu-sic in my ear, the sweet-est name on earth.
 it tells me of his pre-cious blood, the sin-ner's per-fect plea.
 who in each sor-row bears a part that none can bear be-low.

Refrain is on the next page

Refrain

O how I love Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus,

O how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

WORDS: Frederick Whitfield, 1855
MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody

O HOW I LOVE JESUS
CM with Refrain

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GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



FIRST READING: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Please be seated.

L A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

Read responsively.

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

³Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

⁴**The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

⁵Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.

⁶**Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

⁷Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.



SECOND READING: Philippians 3: 4b-14

L A reading from Philippians.

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THEREFORE GOD ALSO HIGHLY EXALTED HIM
AND GAVE HIM THE NAME
THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME,
SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS
EVERY KNEE SHOULD BEND,
IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
AND UNDER THE EARTH,
AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

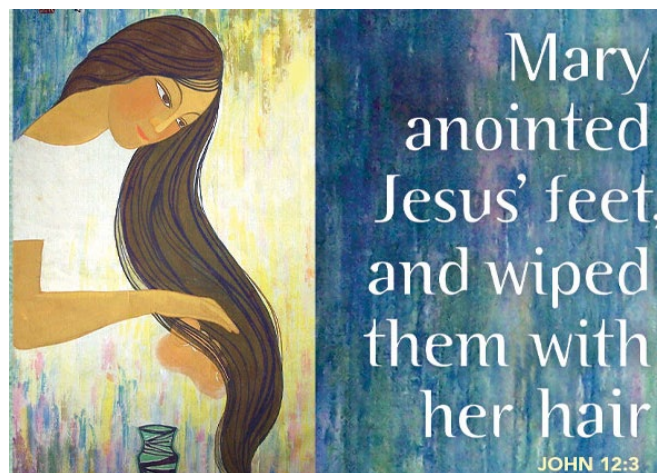


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Please stand as you are able.***GOSPEL: John 12: 1-8****P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing the feet of Jesus with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

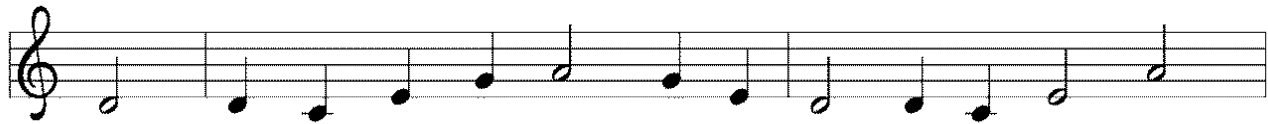
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON***Please be seated.*

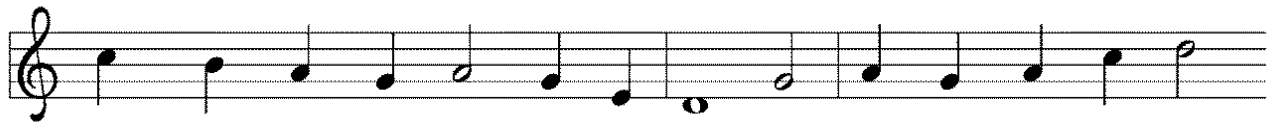
HYMN OF THE DAY: *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)

Please stand as you are able. Sing only verses 1, 3, and 4.

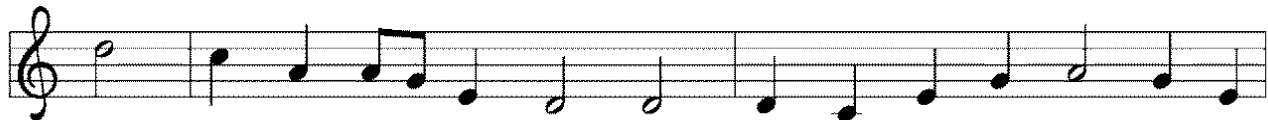
What Wondrous Love Is This



- 1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
- 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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APOSTLES' CREED

A Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into Heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A The Church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need especially Michael and Niki and all those we hold in our hearts. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again.

God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

- A** The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior.
 God, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**
- P** Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
C **Amen.**

SHALOM

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

Continue to stand as you are able.

- P** Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**



DIALOGUE

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
C **By day and by night he shines for all to see.**
- P** Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
- P** God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
- P** Jesus is the light of the world.
C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
- P** Sing to God a new song!
C **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the World. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus **took bread**, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he **took the cup**, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray the prayer you taught us:

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

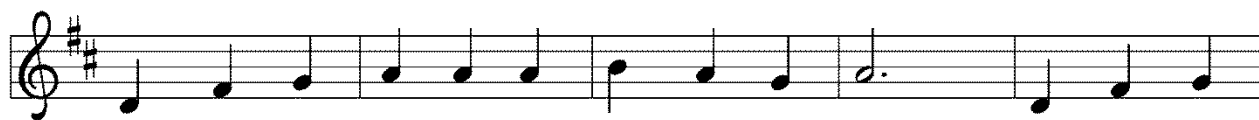
- P** Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

BLESSING

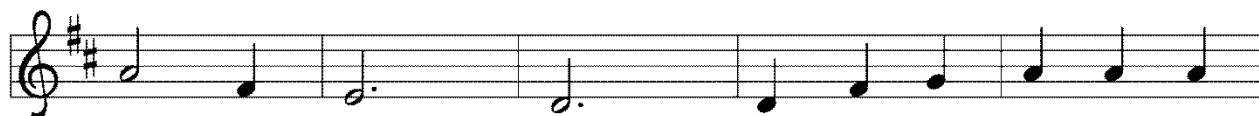
- P** You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: (ELW 815)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



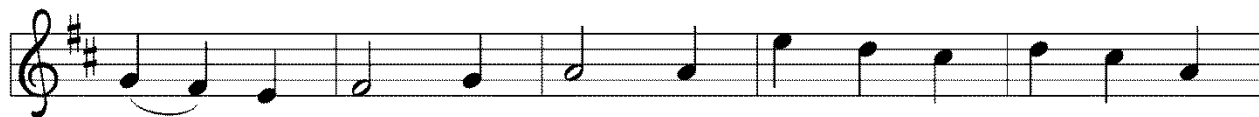
fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Let your light shine.

C Thanks be to God. *We go out--Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love. Amen!* (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Serving during worship this morning:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

Serving during worship next week:

Presider: Jon Meister

Musician(s): Jerry Gossett

Food fund donations:

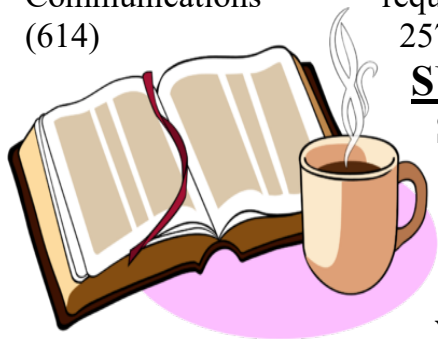
ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune.

CONTACT THE PASTOR

Communications
(614)

requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker,
257-8560.



SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We have

Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:40 each week except the first week of the month. Please come and join our lively discussion.

Bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you if you wish. We are beginning at the beginning. We will be doing some hopping and skipping. We are discussing Abraham and Sarah now.

FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is *Stix-N-Stonez*. Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at “*christianameister.wixsite.com/blog*”. Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out both of these Facebook sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS



We are praying for Michael Koch, who has been fighting for a lifetime; Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim's daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers. We are also praising God for Braxton as he is recovering from his surgery.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick.

Maybe send a card or something to let them know they are being remembered.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid
Keep all of the Koch's in your prayer

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

APRIL 17 Maundy Thursday. I know that Resurrection will have a service at 7:00

APRIL 18 Good Friday. Many churches have a service.

APRIL 13 Passion Sunday

APRIL 20 Easter Sunday

APRIL 27 Community Prayer Service at the Bible Church. It will begin at 6:30

