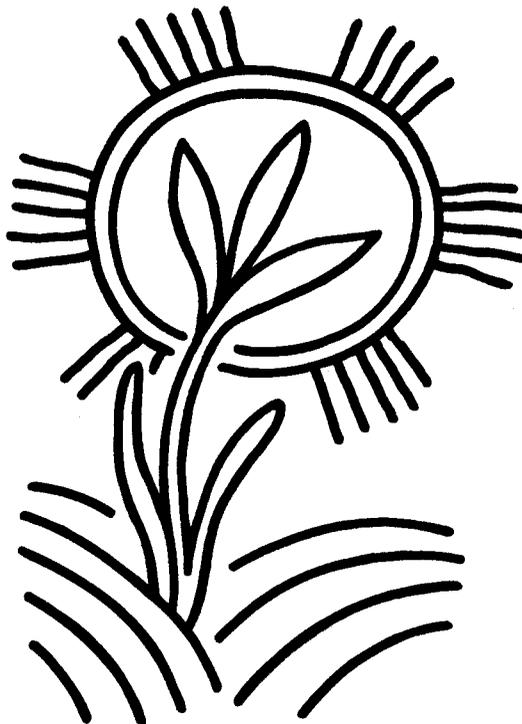


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

March 21, 2021



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required throughout the worship service.**

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewisownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

# Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)

March 21, 2021 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

## Introduction to the day

*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## MINISTRY OF ZION

### \*KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

## \*GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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. O God,  
**C** **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12 (Spoken responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

## **GOSPEL: John 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

**P** The holy gospel according to John.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” <sup>29</sup>Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

**\*CREED**

**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**

**P** Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

(Response to the petitions)

**P** Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**P** We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING

#### **Create in Me a Clean Heart**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

#### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.  
He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;  
through whom all glory and honor are 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 and teach us to pray.**

**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 Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.**

## COMMUNION SONG

### Lamb of God

*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, grant us peace.*

## COMMUNION

*Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.*

### \*TABLE BLESSING

P 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.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*BLESSING

P You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C Amen.

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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**Serving Us:**

**Pr. Lynne Ogren**

**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**

**Ushers: Aaron Aanenson**

**Lector: Gayle Arntzen**

**Communion Assistant: Doug & Gayle Arntzen**

**Disciples: All the Baptized**

**Welcome!** Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Jessie Stewart, Kathie Bailey, Woody Westburg, Simpson Family

**Homebound Members:** LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Don Pfau, Marv Mathison, Marvin Beck

**Social Concern of the Month:** Intermountain is a nationally recognized nonprofit providing hope and healing to children, youth, and families in need of improved mental and behavioral health. In support of this important ministry, we invite you to contribute to their work as an additional offering this month. Please mark your check Intermountain. **You can also pick up a coin can** to collect “Change for Children” throughout the month.

For more information on Intermountain, check out their website: [www.intermountain.org](http://www.intermountain.org)

**Communion Instruction starts at 10:30am today** Children who have not yet had instruction to receive Holy Communion are invited to come to church after worship with Pastor Lynne. At Zion, parents determine the age their child is ready to learn about this sacrament and receive it in worship.

**Kids please bring a parent or another caring adult with you.**

**Week of 03/22-03/28**

Wed	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch at the Elks
	1:00pm	Lenten Worship
	3:30pm	BLAST
	3:45pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm	Lenten Discussion Via <a href="#">Zoom</a>
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sun	9:30am	Worship Palm Sunday

Serving on Staff:

Secretary & BLAST Director: Falan Aanenson

Bookkeeper: Lynn Franz

Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker

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