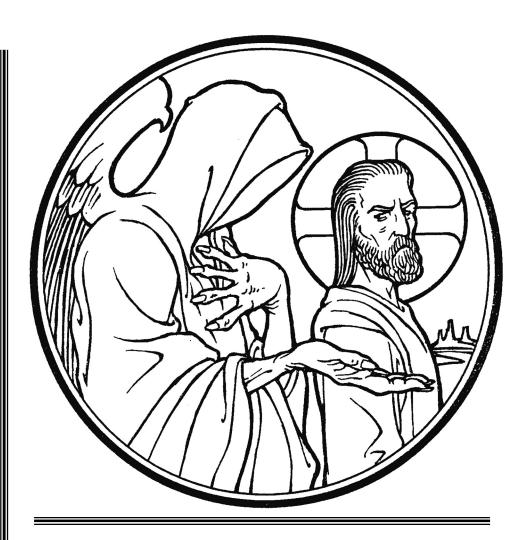
A Prayer **Upon Enter**ing Church O Jesus, faithful Savior, who once struggled for us in a severe battle, we are gathered today to ponder that struggle. Oh, grant that at least for the salvation of our souls Your believers might be mightily strengthened in the faith; let all of us embrace you in faith... Amen.







The First Sunday in Lent

Invocabit + February 18, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day.

The wilderness (Hebrew: *mid-bar*) was a frequent place of testing for God's people, yet also a place of preparation for future glory. Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness before they could enter the Promised Land, and it was only by God's grace they made it! Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days before His public ministry commenced. That very ministry signaled the end Satan and his grip on humanity, something that would be gloriously confirmed in Jesus' resurrection.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

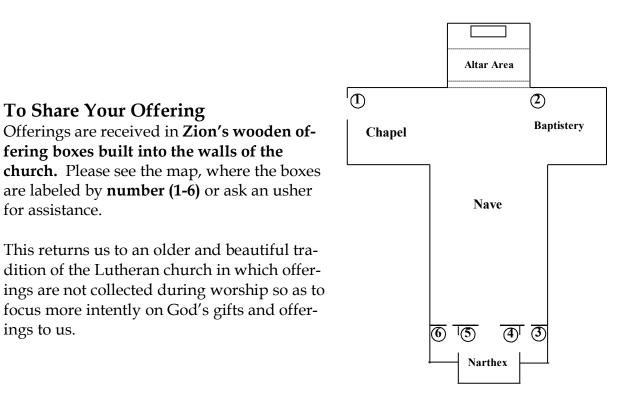
To Share Your Offering

for assistance.

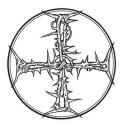
ings to us.

fering boxes built into the walls of the

- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season. •
- The sponsor charts for 2024 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are availa-• ble for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.



2



PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

... David N. Johnson

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ... LSB #418

INVOCATION

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the ♥ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C: who made heaven and earth.
- P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,
- C: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

- P: O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C: I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

~ Claudia F. Hernaman (d. 1898 A.D.), LSB #418:4

To this day, there is found no sin so great that it cannot be forgiven for the sake of *Jesus, and no* wretched man so lost and no one so helplessly petty and selfish within her *rotten heat* that she cannot be united with God when she believes in Jesus.

~ Bo Giertz, Sermon for the First Sunday in Lent, <u>A</u> <u>Year of</u> <u>Grace</u>, Vol. I, 1971 A.D.

- C: Amen

Please stand.

INTROIT

L: When he calls to me, I will | answer him;* I will rescue him and | honor him.

C: With long life I will sat- | isfy him* and show him my sal- | vation.

L: He who dwells in the shelter of the | Most High* will abide in the shadow of the Al- | mighty.

C: I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my | fortress," my God, in | whom I trust."

L: Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place –* the Most High, who is my | refuge –

C: no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,* no plague come | near your tent.

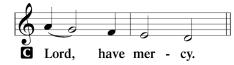
L: You will tread on the lion and the | adder;* the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

- L: When he calls to me, I will | answer him;* I will rescue him and | honor him.
- C: With long life I will sat- | isfy him* and show him my sal- | vation.

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved.

~ Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5 Paul was blamed often enough, but wrongfully, never for a cause that he gave but only for a cause that was invented by the enemies of the gospel. As a man is known by the friends he has, so he is known by those who blame him. *Get friends of* whose praise you can be proud and thus enemies who blame of you is equal to a compliment, of which you can be proud.

~ R.C.H. Lenski, <u>I and II Co-</u> <u>rinthians</u>, 1937 A.D.

COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,

and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

TRACT

L: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"'Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you,' and

"'On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.""

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"'You shall worship the Lord your God

and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Be soberminded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

~ 1 Peter 5:8

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

... LSB #657

SERMON

"A Watershed in the Wilderness"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

- P: In Holy Baptism, our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As the holy apostles of the Lord declare, "Baptism now saves you," and "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Living with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.
- P: How are you named?

Parents: Clara Ann

P: Clara Ann, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ♥ head and upon your ♥ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith that, living in the promise of

In a world that remembered Alexan*der the Great* well, and had seen the Ro*man Empire* grow, thoughts of world domination were alive. That the Messiah would establish something in this manner was precisely what many Jews believed and taught. But Jesus re*jects this* thought as satanic. His kingdom was not of this world.

~ Bo Giertz, <u>New Testa-</u> <u>ment Devo-</u> <u>tional Com-</u> <u>mentary</u>: Vol. 1, 1984 A.D. Holy Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Is it your intention to serve Clara Ann as sponsors of this Christian faith?

Parents: Yes, with the help of God.

P: God enable you to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

Clara Ann is taken to the font.

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood, you condemned the unbelieving and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He hallowed water, making it a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that she who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away her sin, and bring her forth an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

Jesus' victory is not with some magical blast but in the strength of the words of the Lord. The same words have been given to you too. Jesus was tempted to slip away from the words of God, away from the cross, into the bondage and slaveries of power.

~ Norman Nagel, Sermon on Matthew 4:1-11, 1995 A.D. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please stand.

P: Clara Ann, do you renounce the devil?

Parents: Yes, I renounce him.

P: Do you renounce all his works?

Parents: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

Parents: Yes, I renounce them.

- P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C: I believe 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.
- P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- C: 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
- P: Clara Ann, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen

Clara Ann is carried to the altar steps. Please be seated.

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you
- P: Let us pray . . . God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Clara Ann: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the Spirit of joy in your presence.
- C: Amen
- P: Clara Ann, child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- *Elder:* Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- P: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness and strengthen them in your Holy Spirit, that they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen
- *Elder:* Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.
- P: Peace be with you.

Clara Ann is carried to her place in the congregation.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Iesus Christ as Lord...

~ 2 *Corinthians* 4:3-5 Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.
- P: ... let us pray to the Lord,
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

"O God, Before Thee Now I Cry"

... Timothy Frank

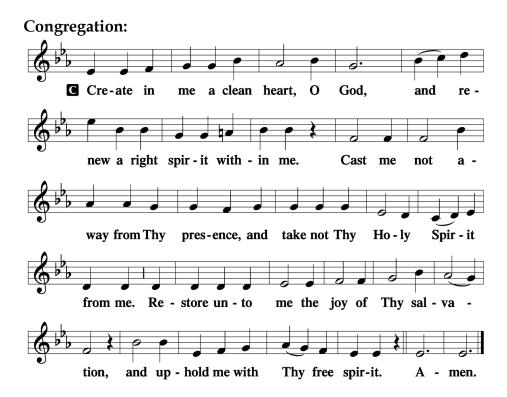
Choir: O God, before Thee now I cry With songs of contrite pleading. For Thou in grace wilt not deny The pardon I am seeking. Look on me through Thine own dear Son Who for my sake salvation won, My debts from me thus freeing

(Psalm 143) O hear my earnest prayer, O LORD; Give ear to me in mercy; The enemy hath drawn the sword, His might is turned against me. Deliver me from Satan's power, That I may firmly in this hour Rest fully in Thy keeping.

The Sacred Writings do not mention Satan incidentally, but the doctrine of Satan is so interwoven in the whole of Christian *doctrine that* the entire structure would col*lapse if one* denies the existence of that evil spirit...

So shall Thy answer be assured; Thou, O my God, hast heard me. Through Christ, Thou hast for me secured The right to come before Thee. Thy faithful works I shall confess; With hymns and praises, I will bless Thy mercies never ceasing.

Please stand.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.
- C: Amen

... If one denies the existence of the devil, one must also de*ny the fall of* man, original sin, the redemption, Christ, Baptism, yes, the entire Gospel; *yes, then one* must make a liar out of the prophets, apostles, and Christ Himself.

~ C.F.W. Walther, <u>Gospel Ser-</u> <u>mons: Vol.</u> <u>1</u>, 1870 A.D.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

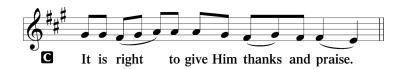
P: The Lord be with you.



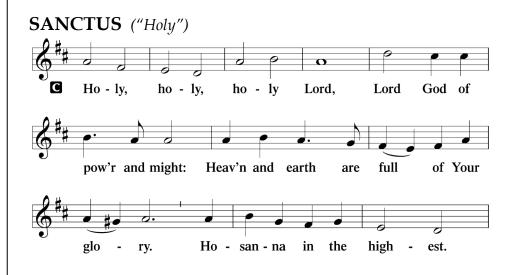
P: Lift up your hearts.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

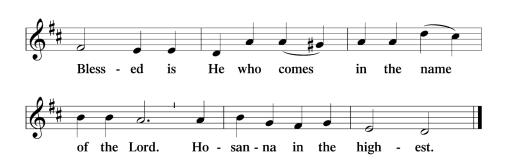


P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be *able to stand* against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

~ Ephesians 6:10-12



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

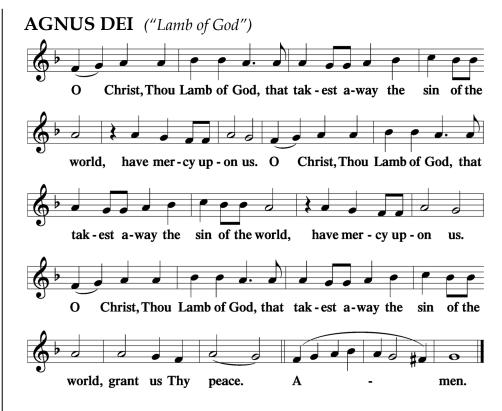
In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

- P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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

ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.



If Satan crossed swords with the Head, His members dare not feel secure. Christ *is the general.* All believers in Christ are called to active duty in a spiritual war...In Baptism we all vowed "to *renounce the* devil and all his works and all his ways," that is, to *fight against* him...

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

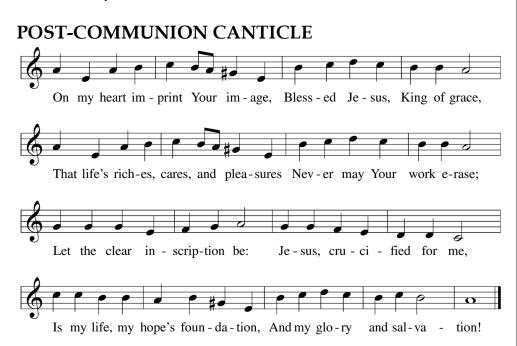
The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives ours sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" ... LSB #618 "Jesus, Lead Thou On" ... LSB #718 "O Love, How Deep" ... LSB #544

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to for-sake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen

... Just as Christ was driven into the wilderness immediately after His Baptism to be temped, so all who are baptized in Jesus Christ should expect nothing else.

~ C.F.W. Walther, <u>Gospel</u> <u>Sermons: Vol.</u> <u>1</u>, 1870 A.D. A Prayer Before you Go Oh dearest Lord Jesus, You alone know how many of us are still in the power of darkness. Arise, arise, struggle today for these souls. Resurrect the dead, establish the fallen, give joy to the despondent, courage to the faint, and so today again be victorious through Your Word... Amen. ~ C. F. W.

Walther

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and \blacksquare give you peace.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Maestoso & Allegro on "Deo Gracias" (Oh Love, How Deep) ... Michael Burkhardt

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

- 0 · ·	
Presiding:	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde
Preaching:	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
_	(Pr. Gjerde to Bethany at 10:30 am)
<u>Organist</u> :	Kantor Irene Beethe
Trumpet:	Chad Premeau
Choir:	Ivan Beethe, Ted Gulhaugen, Tim Pagel,
	Tyler Pagel, Keith Watson, Steve Zeinemann
<u>Radio</u> :	Paul Fandrey
Lector:	Kathy Fandrey
<u>Acolyte</u> :	Hunter Renken
Communion:	Sally Christoffersen, Grace Mueller
<u>Elder</u> :	Scott Schubring
<u>Ushers</u> :	Don Budnik, Lynn Budnik, Andy Kieffer,
	Leah Kieffer
<u>Altar Guild</u> :	Jane Gjerde, Sarah Gjerde

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson Kantor Irene Beethe Office Manager Jessica G. Ray Custodian Cody Augustine Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen **To contact us by email:** zion@zionlutheranwausau.com

To visit our webpage: www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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