

**A Prayer  
Upon  
Entering  
Church**

O God, you who have prepared a place for my soul, prepare my soul for that place; prepare it with holiness; prepare it with desire; and even while it remains on earth, let it dwell in heaven with you; seeing the beauty of your face and the glory of your saints, now and for evermore.

~ *Joseph Hall,*  
*Bishop of*  
*Norwich,*  
*1574-1656*



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**Quinquagesima**

February 11, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome to the Lord's Day.** Jesus told many stories, and He is the reality of them all. In today's Gospel, that reality breaks forth as He reveals His true glory: His willingness to die for the world's salvation. That glory opens the eyes of faith to a new vision of God's grace. It also directs us to the goal of this coming Lent: a deeper trust in all that our Lord has done for our sake, so that the consolation of His mercy may strengthen our hearts and inspire our lives.

## Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Gary & Barb Langbecker in loving memory of their twin grandsons, Chase and Landon, who would have turned 15 on February 11.
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored in memory of Delores Lewitzke, whose birthday was February 21, by Mike & Marcia Strandberg, Luke & Payton Strandberg, Mark & Molly Lewitzke, and Kaylee & Patrick Kavanagh.
- The sponsor charts for 2024 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

## A Welcome for Those With Young Children

This house is your children's home, too. Relax and enjoy your time here:

- Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Zion.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please consider sitting towards the front where your children can easily see the worship leaders, hear the words, note the colors, wonder about some of the images up there, and embrace the action at the altar.
- As we go along, softly explain the liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in with their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And also with you! I believe! Our Father!* All of that belongs to them, too.
- Be sure to sing and pray your parts as you stand and kneel and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.
- If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. There is a nursery downstairs for those who would like to use it, but like Jesus, we want your children in the liturgy, not out. *Let the little children come unto me.* (Luke 18:16).

If you need help, just ask. There are lots of folks here who will lend a hand.



## PRELUDE

"I Know My Faith is Founded" ... J.S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel,  
and Michael Praetorius

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

*Please stand.*

## INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Please kneel. Silence for reflection.*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, 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**

*God hides Himself in things that, to us sinners, seem "un-godlike," not fit for His majesty, too poor for His richness, too weak for His strength. But that is His way. He does it quite on purpose, for "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God" (1 Corinthians 1:27-29) . . .*

**P:** 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 therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen**

*Please stand.*

## **ENTRANCE HYMN**

"Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

... LSB #704

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

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



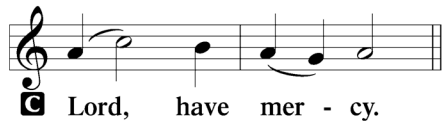
**P:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**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.



**COLLECT**

P: Let us pray . . . O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers and having set us free from the bonds of our sins deliver us from every evil; 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.*

**OLD TESTAMENT** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his

. . . Our Lord camouflages Himself, to be sure, but He does so only to hide Himself from those who want a god that bedazzles the world with all kinds of fanfare. Though disguised in simplicity, He is still readily perceptible to those who know where to find Him, who believe that He truly is where He has promised to be: in His Word, His Baptism, His Holy Communion.  
~ Rev. Chad Bird,  
Fusion:  
Trees

*Jesus Christ  
is the high  
priest of our  
offerings,*

*Our protector  
and helper in  
our weakness.*

*Through him  
we fix our  
gaze on the  
heavenly  
heights.*

*Through him  
we see as in a  
mirror*

*The pure and  
lofty face of  
God . . .*

sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." <sup>11</sup>Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." <sup>12</sup>And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY** *Psalm 89:18-29*

L: For our shield belongs | to the LORD,\*  
our king to the Holy One of | Israel.

**C: Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:  
"I have granted help to one who is | mighty;\*"  
I have exalted one chosen from the | people.**

L: I have found David, my | servant;\*  
with my holy oil I have a- | nointed him,

**C: so that my hand shall be estab- | lished with him;\*"**  
**my arm also shall | strengthen him.**

L: The enemy shall not out- | wit him;\*  
the wicked shall not | humble him.

**C: I will crush his foes be- | fore him\*  
and strike down those who | hate him.**

L: My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall | be with him,\*  
and in my name shall his horn be ex- | alted.

**C: I will set his hand | on the sea\*  
and his right hand on the | rivers.**

L: He shall cry to me, 'You are my | Father,\*  
my God, and the Rock of my sal- | vation.'

**C: And I will make him the | firstborn,\*  
the highest of the kings | of the earth.**

L: My steadfast love I will keep for him for- | ever,\*  
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.

**C: I will establish his offspring for- | ever\*  
and his throne as the days of the | heavens.**

**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**

**EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

<sup>1</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does

*... Through  
him the eyes of  
our heart have  
been opened.*

*Through him  
our foolish and  
darkened mind*

*Grows up  
again into the  
light.*

*Through him  
the Master  
willed that we  
should taste  
immortal  
knowledge*

*~ Clement of  
Rome, 80  
A.D.*

*We are all merely like infants at holy baptism. As believers we are merely those who say, "I believe, dear Lord, help my unbelief." We must recognize that unbelief, the human incapability to believe in God is the same for all the children of Adam, and that faith in every case is a psychologically inconceivable miracle of God.*  
~ Hermann Sasse, The Lonely Way

not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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

### TRACT

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

### GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter.



<sup>31</sup>Taking the twelve, [Jesus] said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup>For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. <sup>33</sup>And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." <sup>34</sup>But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was



said. <sup>35</sup>As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup>And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. <sup>37</sup>They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." <sup>38</sup>And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup>And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>40</sup>And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup>"What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." <sup>42</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." <sup>43</sup>And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



## APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

**C: 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✕ everlasting. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

*In the movie The Third Man, Orson Welles, who is dealing in lethal drugs in postwar Vienna, explains to his friend as they sit at the top of a Ferris wheel, looking down at the crowds far below. Were the money good enough, Welles asks, would it really matter to his friend, would it really matter to anyone, if one, or two, or three of those anonymous specks down there simply disappeared? The Christian answer, of course, is yes . . .*

*[continued on the next page]*

[continued  
from the pre-  
vious page]

. . . It matters  
enormously,  
it matters  
infinitely.  
Each one of  
those specks is  
a human life  
of irreducible  
complexity  
and incalcula-  
ble worth.

Each one was  
seen from the  
cross, and for  
each one he  
died. Each is  
destined from  
eternity to  
eternity and,  
in the words  
of Dante's  
Paradiso, each  
is embraced  
by "the love  
that moves  
the sun and  
the other  
stars."

~ Richard  
John Neu-  
haus, Death  
on a Friday  
Afternoon

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Know My Faith Is Founded"

... LSB #587

## SERMON

"Hidden for a Reason and a Season"

*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: . . . Lord in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

"We All Believe in One True God"

... LSB #954

*The Choir will sing Stanza 1.*

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Lord,

**C: we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. Grant us so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

## SANCTUS ("Holy")

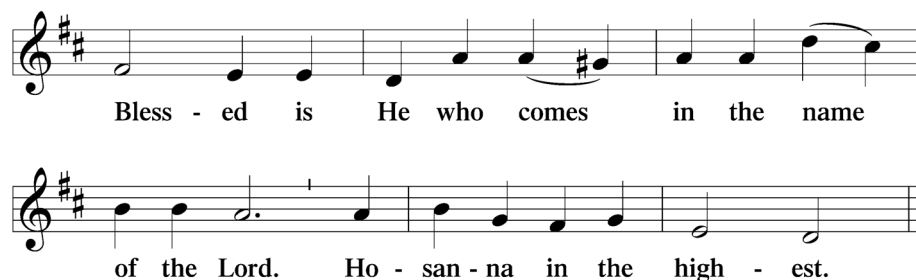
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*We speak as we are spoken to. God opens up our mouths, and out comes the Word He gives us to speak. The vocabulary of prayer is formed by the Word of God Himself.*  
~ Harold L. Senkbeil, Dying to Live

*Great indeed is the honor put upon our bodies, insomuch as they are the dwelling places of our souls redeemed and fed by the body of Christ, and are the temples of the Holy Ghost and the abodes of the adorable Trinity. It cannot be that they should ever remain in the grave, since they are thus nourished with the body and blood of our Lord. He is the wonderful bread of life. We partake of it and become one body with Christ . . .*



## 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: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



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



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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 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 our 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*

*... We are members of Christ; we are animated by His Spirit; we are nourished with His body and blood; He is the bread of God which cometh down from heaven and giveth life unto the world. (John 6:33)*

*~ Johann Gerhard, Sacred Meditations, 1606 A.D.*

*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

### “O Living Bread from Heaven”



1. O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well you feed your guest!
2. My Lord, you here have led me To this most ho - ly place,
3. You gave me all I want - ed; This food can death de - stroy.
4. Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en Have filled my heart with rest.  
And with Your-self have fed me The trea-sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed The cup of end - less joy.  
My course on earth is length - ened, To serve with ho - ly fear.



Oh, won-drous food of bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes!  
For you have free - ly giv - en What earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it The fa - vor you have shown,  
And when You call my spir - it To leave this world be - low,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows!  
The bread of life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
And all my soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore your throne.  
I en - ter, through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

“Christ Be My Leader”

... LSB #861

“Amazing Grace”

... LSB #744

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -  
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

**A Prayer  
As You Go**

Lord, during this coming Lenten season nourish us with your word of life and make us one in love and prayer. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**A** - men.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

"I Know My Faith is Founded"

... Jan Bender

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**  
*To God alone be glory*



### **Serving at Worship**

- Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson  
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde  
(Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am)  
Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe  
Violin: Mary Premeau  
Choir: Zion Confirmation Choir  
Vocalists: Carol Rich, Jim Speckhard, Betsy Utecht,  
Steve Zeinemann  
Radio: Dick Ames  
Lector: Judie Urbanek  
Acolyte: Hunter Renken  
Communion: Rob Kittel, Grace Mueller  
Elder: Scott Schubring  
Ushers: Mark Gehrke, Marlene Kroening, Steve Kroening,  
Grace Mueller  
Altar Guild: Bonnie Glasel, Bonnie Waack

### **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**

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**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

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**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
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