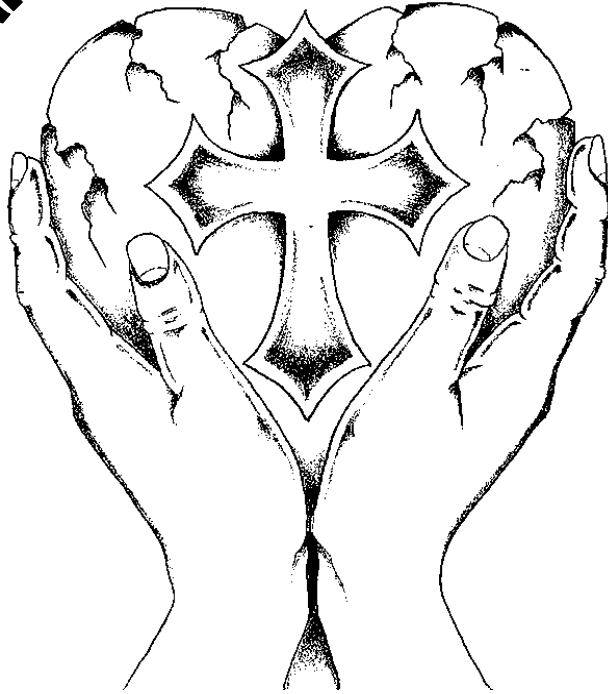


Take Heart: Overcoming a World of Loss



Losing Dreams: Overcoming Disappointment

March 15, 2023 A.D. + 6:30 p.m. + Zion Lutheran Church + Wausau, Wisconsin

Midweek Preaching Series:

**“Take Heart:
Overcoming a World of Loss”**

*Every Wednesday in Lent + 12:15 and 6:30 PM
Soup-to-Go, 1-3 PM + Soup Suppers, 5:15-6:15 PM*

What have you lost? It seems we're always losing something: time, money, relationships, loved ones, dreams, and even our selves. In many ways, loss sets the conditions of human life. Does God have anything to say to such a world of loss?

*Feb. 22: **Losing Our Selves: Overcoming Sin***

*March 1: **Losing Relationships: Overcoming Separation***

*March 8: **Losing Loved Ones: Overcoming Death***

March 15: Losing Dreams: Overcoming Disappointment

March 22: Losing Our Grip: Overcoming Need

March 29: Losing Faith: Overcoming Doubt

THE LITURGY OF VESPERS

PRELUDE

"Nearer, My God, to Thee"

... Gordon Young

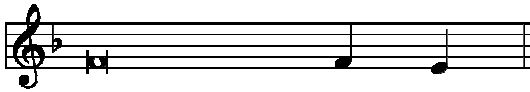
RINGING OF THE BELLS

After the bells have rung, please stand and face the back.

The Paschal Candle, symbolizing Christ, is carried into the congregation.

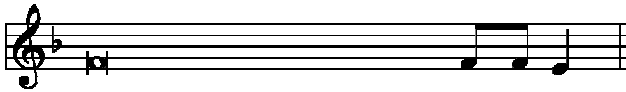
SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: Behold, now is the acceptable time;



C now is the day of sal - va - tion.

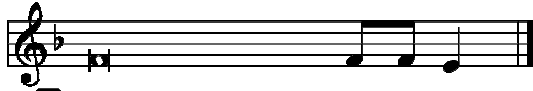
P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,



C that the light of Your face may shine on us.

*The opening responses
are sung a cappella,
(without organ
accompaniment).*

P: May your justice shine like the sun;

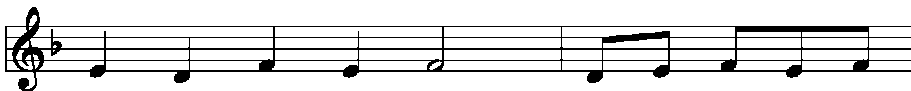


C and may the poor be lift - ed up.

P: Joyous light of glory:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



P: Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Please kneel.

PSALMODY *Psalm 141*

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice

when I cry to You. Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** 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.
Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Silence for reflection.

P: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

PSALMODY *Psalm 27*

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

C: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
P: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
C: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
P: to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.
C: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
P: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
C: he will lift me high upon a rock.
P: And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
C: and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
P: I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
C: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
P: You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."
C: Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help.
P: Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
C: For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.
P: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
C: Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
P: for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
C: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
P: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
C: wait for the LORD!

Silence for reflection.

PSALM PRAYER

P: Gracious Father, protector of those who hope in you: You heard the cry of your Son and kept him safe in your shelter in the day of evil. Grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen

HYMN "Nearer, My God, to Thee"



1 Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
2 Tho' like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down,
3 There let my way ap - pear Steps un - to heav'n;
4 Then with my wak - ing tho'ts Bright with Thy praise,



E'en tho' it be a cross That rais - eth me,
Dark - ness be o - ver me, My rest a stone,
All that Thou send - est me In mer - cy giv'n;
Out of my sto - ny griefs Beth - el I'll raise,



Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to Thee,
Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my God, to Thee,
An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to Thee,
So by my woes to be Near - er, my God, to Thee,



Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.
Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.

- 5 Or if on joyful wing, cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

FIRST LESSON Philippians 3:4b-11

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had,
I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss be-

cause of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

P: To you, O Lord, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, in | you I trust.

C: **The Lord is my | shepherd; ***
I shall not | be in want.

P: You are the God of my sal— | vation; *
for you I wait | all day long.

C: **The Lord is my | shepherd; ***
I shall not | be in want.

P: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit.

C: **The Lord is my | shepherd; ***
I shall not | be in want.

SECOND LESSON John 15:1-11

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me,

and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"

... LSB #750

SERMON "Losing Dreams: Overcoming Disappointment"

VERSICLES

P: In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

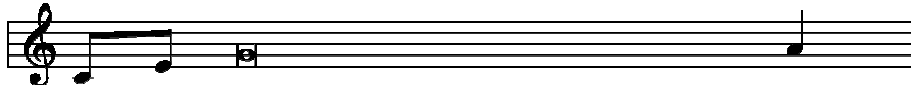
C: **But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.**

Please stand.

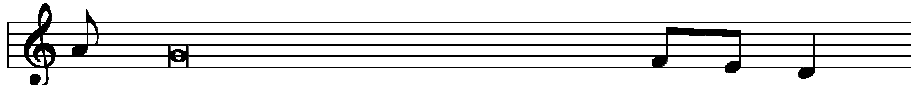
MAGNIFICAT

Refrain

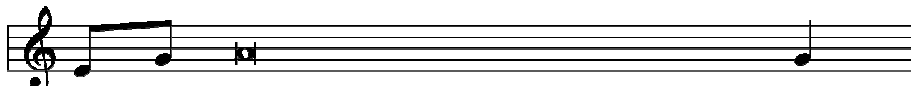
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



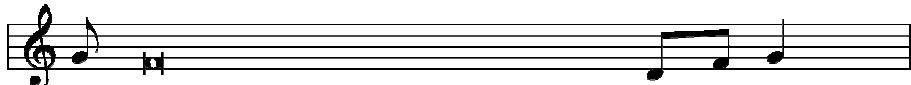
1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
3 He has shown strength with His arm;
4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



1 the lowliness of His hand - maiden.
2 and holy is His name;
3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;



1 For be - hold, from this day
2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



1 all generations will call me blessèd.
2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
3 and has exalt - - - - - ed the lowly.
4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

Please kneel.

LITANY

Each petition will end with "let us pray to the Lord," to which the congregation responds,



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



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

C: *(silence for meditation)*

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



EVENING PRAYER



P: I thank you, my heavenly | Father*,

C: **through Jesus Christ, | your dear Son,**

**that you have | graciously*
kept | me this day;**

**and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I | have done
wrong*,
and graciously keep | me this night.**

**For into your hands I com - | mend myself*,
my body and soul, | and all things.**

**Let your holy angel | be with me*,
that the evil foe may have no power over me. | Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

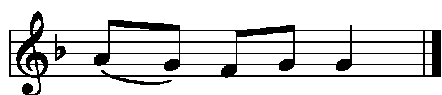
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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

Please stand.

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.



☐ Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



☐ A - men.

HYMN "Abide with Me"



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

POSTLUDE

"Abide with Me"

... Robert A. Hobby

+ + +

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Theodore B. Gulhaugen

Preaching: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson

(Pr. Gjerde to Bethany)

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Elder: Tim Pagel

Church Offerings may be placed in the wall-box to the left of the chapel chancel.

Acknowledgements

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“Nearer, My God, to Thee” and “Abide With Me”: Text and Tune: Public Domain.

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

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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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