

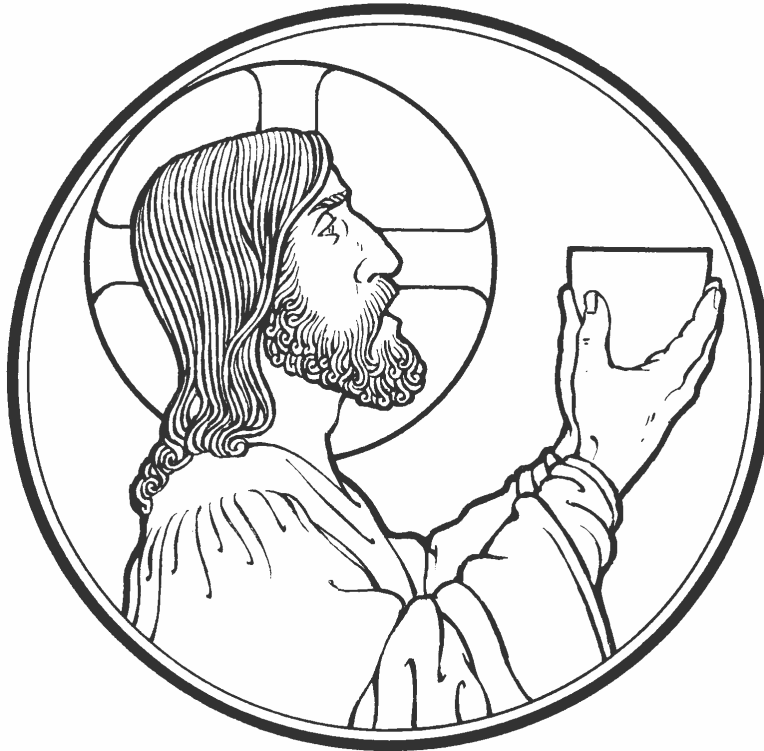
Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

WELCOME



In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this evening be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.



Pastor: Rev. Kirk Clayton

Church Secretary: Robin Phillips

Director of Music/Head Organist/Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson

Church Office Phone: 618-566-7345

Pastor Clayton Cell: 618-447-1306

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Email: ChurchOffice@ZionMascoutah.org

Pastor Clayton email: Pastor@ZionMascoutah.org

Web site: www.ZionMascoutah.org

Find us at @ZionMascoutah on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Maundy Thursday

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

Prelude

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Martin

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Sit

P During this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. For we are all one bread and one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this

in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable 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.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Hymn

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

LSB 435

- 1** Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- 2** Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3** Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4** They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

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Introit

- P** God forbid that I should boast,
C Except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
P In Him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead.
C By Him we are redeemed and set at liberty.
P God be merciful to us and bless us,
C And cause His face to shine upon us.
P That Your way may be known on earth,
C Your salvation among all nations.
P Let the peoples praise You, O God,
C Let all the peoples praise You.
P God, our own God, shall bless us.
C God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Kyrie

LSB p. 186

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.
P Let us pray.
O Lord, who left to us in a wonderful Sacrament a memorial of Your Passion, grant we implore You that we so use this Sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption continually may be manifest in us; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 19:16b-29

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 19th chapter.



C Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided My garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn

Jesus, in Your Dying Woes
(Stanzas 13-15)

LSB 447

- 13 **Jesus, in Your thirst and pain, While Your wounds Your lifeblood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 14 **Thirst for us in mercy still; All Your holy work fulfill;
Satisfy Your loving will: Hear us, holy Jesus.**
- 15 **May we thirst Your love to know. Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, holy Jesus.**

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Sermon

I Thirst

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, in the Passover You used the blood of a sacrificial lamb marked on the doorposts of Your people's houses to spare the lives of those faithful to You, and You called for the observance of the Passover to be a lasting remembrance of Your grace and salvation. Remind us always of Your goodness toward us also, O Lord, and open our eyes to see how Jesus, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us. As we are marked by the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, so bring us from death in sin to life forevermore in Your great love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P On this night when we remember how Jesus gave us His Holy Supper and allowed Himself to be betrayed so we can be saved, let us pray for ourselves, for Christ's Church, and for the world. Holy Lord, since Your Son taught us that as often as we eat His bread and drink His cup, we proclaim His death until He comes, use every such proclamation of Christ to turn those without faith to trust in the Passover Lamb who offered Himself for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, as Your Son washed His disciples' feet and then offered Himself in service by going to the cross, give us humble hearts that are ready always to serve our families, our friends, our communities, and even our enemies, caring for everyone in Your name and using our lives to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood; He has redeemed us and inaugurated Your new covenant. Teach us to examine ourselves, so that confessing our sins, we come in repentance to receive our Savior's body and blood. By those gifts that You place in our mouths at this altar, give us Christ's forgiveness and renew us in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, we remorsefully confess that we are prone to stray. Guard and defend each of us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful inclinations. Forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and keep us as Your own until You bring us to feast with angels, archangels, and all Your saints at Your heavenly table. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we place ourselves and all those for whom we pray, confident of the mercy that You show to us because of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]

Stand

Offertory

LSB p. 192

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB p. 194

The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB p. 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

P 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.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

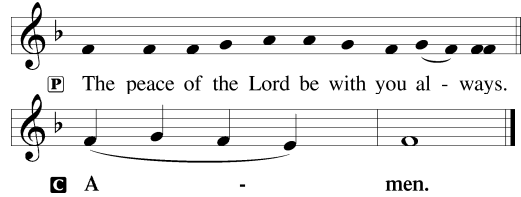
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after 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 it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

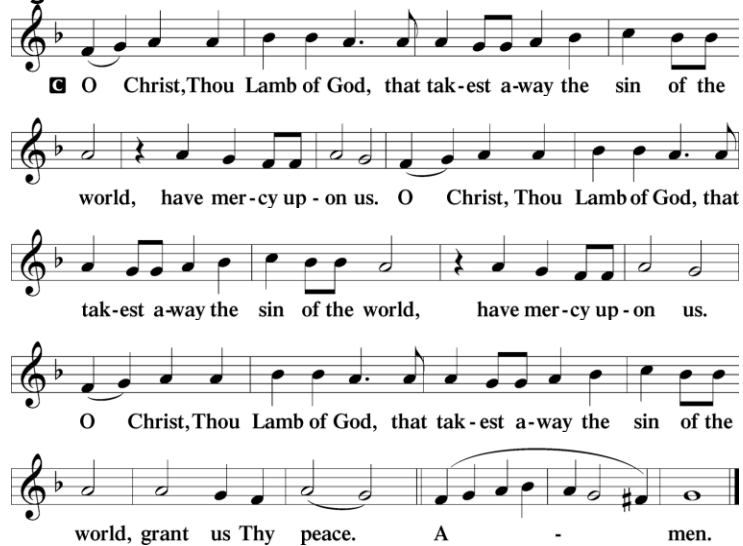
LSB p. 197



Two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. A - men."

Agnus Dei

LSB p. 198



Five staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men."

Sit

Distribution

During the Distribution, the camera will be focused on the cross at the front of Zion to allow for privacy for those who commune.

Zion Lutheran practices the policy of close communion, communing only those who share our common Biblical view of the Lord's Supper. If you are not a confirmed LCMS Lutheran, please confer with the pastor before communing.

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

Hymn

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

LSB 634

- 1 The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord, We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress, Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.
- 2 He blotted out with His own blood The judgment that against us stood;
For us He full atonement made, And all our debt He fully paid.
- 3 That this forever true shall be He gives a solemn guarantee:
In this His holy Supper here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
- 4 His Word proclaims and we believe That in this Supper we receive
His very body, as He said, His very blood for sinners shed.
- 5 We dare not ask how this can be, But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins: "Given and shed for all your sins."
- 6 They who this word do not believe This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find— May we this warning keep in mind!
- 7 But blest is each believing guest Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain With all who here His grace obtain.
- 8 Help us sincerely to believe That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest. Amen! They who believe are blest.

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Hymn

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

- 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
- 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

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Hymn

The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

LSB 602

- 1 The gifts Christ freely gives He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
- 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
New life He gives that makes Us His and His alone.
Here He forgives our sins With water and His Word;
The triune God Himself Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.

- 3 The gifts of grace and peace From absolution flow;
The pastor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
Forgiveness that we need Is granted to us there;
The Lord of mercy sends Us forth in His blest care.
- 4 The gifts are there each day The holy Word is read;
God's children listen, hear, Receive, and they are fed.
Christ fills them with Himself, Blest words that give them life,
Restoring and refreshing Them for this world's strife.
- 5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in His peace, renewed again.
- 6 All glory to the One Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!

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Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

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.

Stripping of the Altar

The communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the paraments are removed, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

Psalm 22

P My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

C Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?

P O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,

C And by night, but I find no rest.

P Yet You are holy,

C Enthroned on the praises of Israel.

P In You our fathers trusted,

C They trusted, and You delivered them.

P To You they cried and were rescued;

C In You they trusted and were not put to shame.
P But I am a worm and not a man,
C Scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
P All who see Me mock Me,
C They make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
P "He trusts in the Lord; let Him deliver Him;
C Let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!"
P Yet You are He who took Me from the womb;
C You made Me trust You at My mother's breasts.
P On You was I cast from My birth,
C And from My mother's womb You have been My God.
P Be not far from Me, for trouble is near,
C And there is none to help.
P Many bulls encompass Me;
C Strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;
P They open wide their mouths at Me,
C Like a ravening and roaring lion.
P I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;
C My heart is like wax; it is melted within My breast;
P My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws;
C You lay Me in the dust of death.
P For dogs encompass Me;
C A company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet—
P I can count all My bones—
C They stare and gloat over Me;
P They divide My garments among them,
C And for My clothing they cast lots.
P But You, O Lord, do not be far off!
C O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
P Deliver My soul from the sword,
C My precious life from the power of the dog!
P Save Me from the mouth of the lion!
C You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!
P I will tell of Your name to My brothers;
C In the midst of the congregation I will praise You:
P You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
C And stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!
P For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and He has not hidden His face from Him,
C But has heard, when He cried to Him.
P From You comes My praise in the great congregation;
C My vows I will perform before those who fear Him.
P The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the Lord!
C May your hearts live forever!
P All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
C And all the families of the nations shall worship before You.
P For kingship belongs to the Lord,
C And He rules over the nations.
P All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
C Before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep Himself alive.
P Posterity shall serve Him;
C It shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
P They shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn,
C That He has done it.

(There is no Benediction on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. The services flow into each other until the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening, when the Benediction is again given.)

Acknowledgments

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Acknowledgments

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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION



WELCOME, PASTOR LUKOMSKI

Pastor John Lukowski served as pastor for 40 years at Trinity Lutheran in Darmstadt, IL and St. Paul Lutheran in New Athens, IL. He retired from that call May 2019. He has served in various positions in the Southern Illinois District including Board of Congregational Services, Circuit Visitor, 1st Vice-president and Mission Board Chairman. He is on KFUE radio Saturday morning on “Wrestling with the Basics” with co-host Rev. Matt Clark, “Moments on the Lighter Side” Monday afternoons, as well as a regular guest on “Thy Strong Word.” He is also known to show up as a variety of characters (Martin Luther, St. Peter, even a donkey named Max). He is married to Lynn Lukowski, retired principal at Immanuel Lutheran School, Okawville. Between them they have 8 children and 11 grandchildren.

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

Once again, this year, Zion will be hosting an Easter Vigil Service, sometimes called the “Great Vigil of Easter” on Saturday, April 8th, at 7:00 PM. It is at the same time both the last service of Lent and the first service of Easter (it switches in the middle of the service)! This is one of the most meaningful, most powerful, and most dramatic services of the whole year. The service starts in the dark with lights out (the Lenten part), the Paschal Candle is lit from a (small, carefully controlled) fire in a fire-pit outside symbolizing Jesus’ new life, and then after a series of readings, all the lights are turned on, the announcement is made, “Christ is risen!” and the Easter party starts. It really is a great service, and one that is very meaningful, also for children who really notice the dramatic changes and enjoy the different feel to the service. The service will start at 7:00 PM on Saturday, April 8th, and probably last till about 8:30 PM. Of course, Holy Week is extremely busy, but you are encouraged to add this service to your schedule.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

During Holy Week the Church remembers the greatest outpouring of God's love and grace as we walk with Jesus through the events leading up to His crucifixion, and then celebrate His glorious resurrection. Here is a schedule of services for the coming week. Please make plans to attend each service to receive God's outpouring of grace and blessings in the Word and Sacraments.

Thursday, April 6—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 PM

Friday, April 7—Good Friday Service, 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 8—Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 9—Easter Sunday Divine Service, 10:00 AM

We look forward to seeing you at Zion!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The concert by the Chamber Orchestra from Concordia Chicago, held at Zion Lutheran, Mascoutah on March 26, was a huge success in every way! Thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to all who helped to make this event such an incredible blessing! Over 180 people attended to enjoy the concert. The Ladies Aid provided a wonderful meal for the orchestra members and host families after the concert. The host families had a delightful evening with their students. We significantly exceeded our financial goal to support the ongoing

work of the Chamber Orchestra. Thank you to everyone, especially to all those who made special financial contributions for this concert, to the Ladies' Aid for providing and serving the meal, and to the host families for welcoming these students into your homes. It was a wonderful event!

PASTOR SEDWICK'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Sedwick has started his Sill Bridge program at Zion. He is retiring from active duty Chaplaincy, and before receiving a Divine Call to serve as a parish pastor, he will be at Zion from now until early August. He will not be able to join us for Sunday Bible Classes and Worship until July, due to other preaching commitments across the Southern Illinois District, but he will be easing back into parish ministry through the week at Zion. Pastor Sedwick's email is john.m.sedwick@gmail.com and his cell phone number is 618-767-4682, in case you need to contact him.

EASTER BREAKFAST SERVED BY MEN'S CLUB

Zion's Men's Club will serve an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9 from 8:00-8:45 AM. The meal will be held in the gym. The menu will include eggs, sausage, pancakes, and more. Come enjoy this meal, and this time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Zion. (Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Adult Bible Class will continue to meet at their regularly scheduled times on Easter Sunday, so come to breakfast early to make it to class on time.)

SAMARITAN'S PURSE FUNDRAISER CONCLUDES

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone who helped reach the \$1538 mark! That \$1538 is headed to Samaritan's Purse because of your efforts. The youth would also like to thank the donor who matched the funds for the Youth Group. Many blessings all the way around!

LAST CHANCE TO DONATE FOR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

For the last month we have been collecting funds to help with earthquake relief in Syria, coordinated by Arabic Lutheran Ministries. Despite the dangerous circumstances, Arabic Lutheran Ministries has been able to open a center for the displaced families through a church in Aleppo, where more than 300 families are staying. The immediate need for these families is food, clothing, and various personal supplies. More teams of volunteers are being sent to reach other devastated Syrian cities such as Latakia, Tartus and Jableh, to start centers to shelter families and help with their basic needs. If you would like to donate to this relief effort, place your contributions in the jars at the back of the sanctuary. Easter Sunday will be the last day the donation jars are out, so please make your contributions today.

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONING INVITATION

This year the Confirmation Questioning will not take place during the Bible Class hour before Confirmation. Instead, it will be held on Saturday, April 15 at 4:00 in Zion's sanctuary. Members are welcome to come, be refreshed in their own confirmation, and support our youth who are being confirmed this year. All are invited.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION APRIL 23rd

Zion will rejoice in celebrating Youth Confirmation Sunday on April 23, 2023, during the 10:00 AM Divine Service. We have four youth being confirmed this year: Daniel Bretz, Michael Ganey, Tyler Hinton, and Luke Lara. We look forward to welcoming these dedicated, faithful youth into full communicant membership in the congregation.

MISSION SUNDAY AT ZION ON APRIL 30th

Come celebrate Mission Sunday! At the SID Convention a year ago, the District entered into a mission partnership with the Seminario Concordia El Reformador (Concordia the Reformer Seminary) in the Dominican Republic. As a part of this mission partnership, the SID is hoping to send significant financial contributions to assist with the work of training pastors to serve across Central America and South America. At the Mission Sunday, we will have members of a mission team from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis who visited the DR in January with us at Zion, to hear a bit about their experiences there. We will join together for a Central American-themed meal in the gym after the service. (Two different offerings will be collected...one to cover the food costs

for the meal, and one to go directly to the work of the Seminary in the Dominican Republic.) Mark your calendars now for Mission Sunday on April 30, including the meal after the service.

RISEN CHRIST HYMN FESTIVAL ON MAY 7th

On Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 in the afternoon, Zion Lutheran in Mascoutah will be hosting a "Risen Christ Hymn Festival." This hymn festival is the book-end to the "Christ Triumphant Hymn Festival" held at Zion Lutheran in Belleville in November of 2022. We will be singing many of the great hymns of the Easter season, including "I Know That My Redeemer Lives," "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia," "At the Lamb's High Feast," "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen," "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds," and "Abide with Me." Between the hymns, we will hear commentaries from Dr. Jon Vieker, the Dean of the Chapel at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, who previously was an assistant to LCMS President Matthew Harrison and a leader of the LCMS Commission on Worship. Come sing our joy found in Christ's resurrection!

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY, MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Proclaimer: Rev. John Lukomski
Celebrant: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Altar Guild: Gail Frey
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Lector: Matthew Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Lectors: Rev. John Sedwick & Matthew Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Altar Guild: Lita Timmerman
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THOSE WHO SERVE EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Proclaimer: Rev. Kirk Clayton
Lector: Matthew Clayton
Organist: Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech: Nathaniel Clayton
Acolytes: Dalton Wambold, Chloe Pannier, & Isaiah Clayton (crucifer)
Altar Guild: Jenny Kneschke & Jordan Rehfeldt
Elder of the Month: Jeff Fick

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Thurs.	Maundy Thursday w/communion	7:00 PM
Fri.	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Good Friday Service	7:00 PM
Sat.	Easter Vigil Service w/communion	7:00 PM
Sun.	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
	Easter Breakfast	8:00 AM
	Confirmation Class	8:30 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship DS II w/communion	10:00 AM