

Pastor: As you have a holy love that goes above and beyond anything we can imagine, we rely on that love for healing in times of sickness and injury. Heal all of those on our minds and hearts today, according to your will, that they may know your full power and majesty and proclaim your goodness to the ends of the earth. Lord, in your holy love,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your enriching love, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE OFFERING

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray;

People: 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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord's holy love bless you and keep you. The Lord's holy love shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord's holy love be magnified in you and through you and give you his peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN #536 — *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the bread.

People: Thanks be to God.

ZION Lutheran Church

MARCH 20, 2024

WELCOME

**What Christ's Coming Means to Me ...
Malchus: The Man Who Lost an Ear**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*Caring for others,
the more able and the less able caring for each other.*

PRELUDE

INVOCATION & CONFESSION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: **Whose creating love is holy;**

Pastor: and of the Son,

People: **Whose redeeming love is holy;**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Whose love makes and keeps us holy.
Amen! Amen!**

Pastor: As we continue our journey, we reflect on our imperfections. God demands holiness. We are unholy. There is only perfection in heaven. We are imperfect. Therefore, on account of the holy love of Jesus, we come to God begging for mercy so that we may come into his presence with thanksgiving and enter his courts with praise. Let us then confess our sins to our God.

People: **Heavenly Creator, we keep falling short. We don't measure up. We are imperfect, unholy sinners. We deserve nothing but punishment. Yet, in your holy love, you sent Jesus to this sin-filled earth to take our place and to be holy for us. In your holy righteousness, forgive our sins and make us holy by your Spirit.
Amen.**

Pastor: Your holy God has made you holy! Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow! He has taken away your sin! He has purified you and made you holy. As a called 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.

People: **Amen! Amen!**

HYMN #512 — *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

People: **Lord God, you have compassion on whom you will, and mercy on whom you will. You desire all to believe and to come to a knowledge of the truth. As we reflect on your compassionate love for us today, fill us with your Spirit so that we may have that same compassion for others.
Amen.**

FOCUS TEXT

John 18:1-14

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN #815 — *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

SERMON — *Pastor Ludford*

PRAYERS

Pastor: Holy, loving Lord, your mercies are new every morning and your love never fails throughout the day. It is a perfect love. Help us to cling to that love so that we may not rely on our own imperfect and unholy way of life, but may rely on your perfection to make us holy and serve others in love. Lord, in your holy love,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Even though our love is imperfect, you give us opportunity and the privilege to share your love and serve others. Help us to share the Gospel of your saving grace with the many who need to be made perfect in your love so they may enter the joys of paradise with you. Lord, in your holy love,

People: **Hear our prayer.**