



# ZION Lutheran Church

*Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion*

MARCH 5, 2025

WELCOME

**PRELUDE** — Jill Sousek

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of our longing heart, **Inspire us to pray,**

God of our yearning spirits, **We seek a transforming encounter with Jesus Christ so that we may grow as faithful people.**

God of changed hearts, **Inspire us to act so that we may care for your entire world.**  
**Let us worship our God.**

**HYMN #793** — *Be Thou My Vision*

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Most holy and merciful Father: **We confess to you and one another and the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth that we have sinned by our own fault 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, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you Lord all our past unfaithfulness; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives. **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**



Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

May these ashes be to us, O God, an acknowledgment of our wrongdoing and our acceptance of your forgiveness. In these ashes are our prejudices, our impatience, the times we have turned our backs on the suffering of others, our neglect of the environment, our indifference, our materialism, our greed, our hypocrisy, our envy, all of our sins. In these ashes of repentance are the seeds of our forgiveness and our transformation. For God always accepts us and forgives us. Through our repentance and forgiveness comes transformation. May God create within each of us a clean heart and a new and right spirit.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THIS RITE IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE A SIGN OF PENITENCE AND HUMAN FRAILTY. PLEASE COME FORWARD BY THE CENTER AISLE AND KNEEL AT THE ALTAR RAIL, RETURNING TO YOUR SEAT BY THE SIDE AISLE. TO ASSIST PASTOR, PLEASE PULL BACK HAIR FROM YOUR FOREHEAD.

**HYMN #592** — *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# THE WORD

## LESSON — *1 Peter 5:1-5*

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it — not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL — *John 1:35-42*

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON — *Always Helpful, Often for More Than He Knew!*

[AS TOLD BY ANDREW] — **Pastor Scott Ludford**

## HYMN #773 — *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #811 — *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

## COMMUNION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

### DISTRIBUTION MUSIC — Jill Sousek

### BLESSING

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

God the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

HYMN #597 — *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* [vs. 1, 2, 4]

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the bread.  
Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

FOR

**DUST**  
YOU ARE AND TO

**DUST**  
YOU WILL RETURN."



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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

