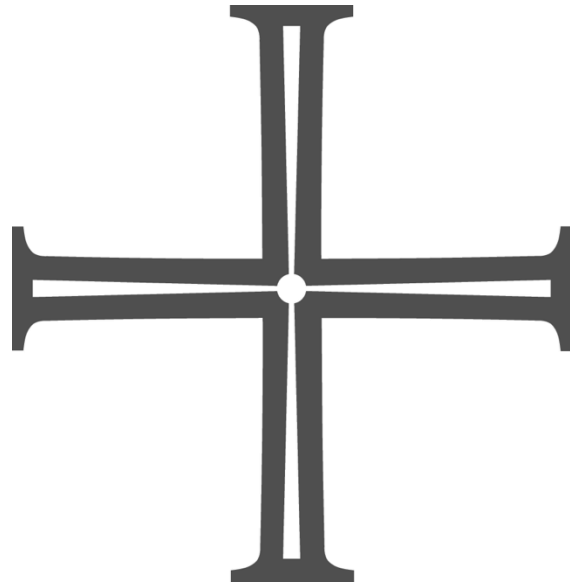


Second Sunday in Lent



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Penn Hills, Pennsylvania

March 16, 2025 ♦ 9:30 am

Following the Liturgy:

- You are invited to speak the responses in **bold type**.
- **ELW #:** a hymn from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (red hymnal).
- **ACS #:** a hymn from *All Creation Sings* (purple hymnal supplement).
Hymn numbers are in the upper outside corners of the pages.

Holy Communion

All who believe and are baptized are welcome at the table Jesus Christ sets for us. You will be dismissed pew by pew by an usher to come forward to the bottom of the chancel steps. As you come forward, take a glass from the tray on either side of the aisle in front of the front pews: empty glasses for wine or a filled glass with grape juice. Proceed to the pastor for a piece of bread, and then to the assisting minister who will pour the wine into your glass. If you would like gluten-free bread or wish to only receive a blessing, please tell the pastor when you come forward. For those in need of mobility assistance, please let the ushers know, and communion will be brought to you in your pew.

Restrooms are located at the rear corner of the sanctuary.

The Prayground on the rear balcony side of the church is a space specially designed for children and families in worship. Toys, books, and coloring materials are available there for your use.

Hearing Assistive Technology is available for those who need it. Please see an usher or tech minister at the desk at the back of the sanctuary.

Introduction to the Day: **Second Sunday in Lent**

Each reading today gives us a picture of our need—no children, no homeland, enemies around, a hungry fox—and each presents us with an image of salvation—descendants, a home, citizenship, protective wings. Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In Holy Baptism, God has wrapped divine wings around us, gathering us into God’s loving embrace, that we might live faithfully as God’s children. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the God of our salvation that we may find the abundant life that God so deeply wants to give.

Choral Prelude: "A New Heart"

Melissa Dunphy

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.

I will take away your heart of stone; I will give you a heart of flesh.

– Ezekiel 36:26

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister prays, preparing the assembly for confession.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others
the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others
with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Kyrie

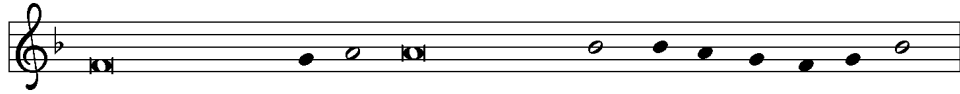
The assembly stands to sing.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



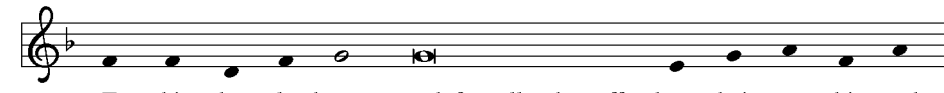
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



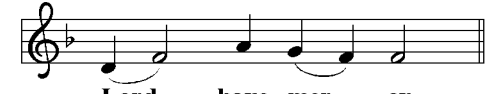
Lord, have mer - cy.



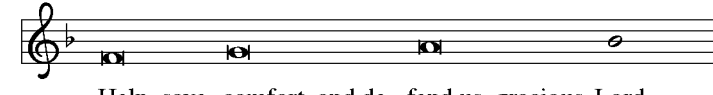
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Word

First Reading: Genesis 15:1–12 , 17–18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” The LORD brought Abram outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then the LORD said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then the LORD said to Abram, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” The LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” Abram brought the LORD all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The choir sings an antiphon. The verses are chanted responsively.



- ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?
- ² When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.
- ³ **Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.**
Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.
- ⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.
- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a
rock.
- ⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.
- ⁷ **Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;**
have mercy on me and | answer me.
- ⁸ **My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.
- ⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.
- ¹⁰ Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.
- ¹¹ **Teach me your | way, O LORD;**
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.
- ¹² **Subject me not to the will | of my foes,**
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.
- ¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!
- ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17–4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. **The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. The acclamation is sung by the choir.

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

(John 3:14-15)

Gospel: Luke 13:31–35

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” Jesus said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: Thy Holy Wings

ELW 6B

The assembly stands to sing.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. A - men.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

Announcements

Meal

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Song: We Sing to You, O God

ELW 791

v. 1 – choir, 2 – men, 3 – women, 4 – all

Setting the Table: Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 185

The assembly stands to sing as the offering is brought forward.

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

Offering Prayer

Response: **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season. The assembly responds:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues with the eucharistic prayer.

The assembly responds: **Amen.**

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
 Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
 and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

Communion

The assembly is seated. (See communion instructions on page 2).

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.

As a Mother Comforts Her Child

ACS 1015

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

Once all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace;
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Response: **Amen.**

Sending Song: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

Dismissal

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.
Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders

| | Today | Next Week (Mar. 23) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Presiding Minister & Preacher | Rev. Richard Neumann | Rev. Richard Neumann |
| Assisting Minister | Gail Snyder | Gail Snyder |
| Organist & Choir Director | Andrew Sabol | Andrew Sabol |
| Musicians | Zion Church Choir | |
| Ushers | Mike Patchen Mark Mauro | Tony Lamorte Charlotte Fraser |
| Altar Guild | Brenda Wolfe Reid Wolfe | Brenda Wolfe Reid Wolfe |
| Tech Minister | Tom Felmley | Tom Felmley |
| Offering Count | Pat Pope Chris Dippold | Tony Lamorte Chrissa Clark |

Lenten Midweek Services
Reflection and Healing with Psalm 103
Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Join us for a quiet time of prayer,
scripture, and song.

Today at Zion

The Sanctuary candle is given today in memory of my parents, Raymond & Grace Gordon from JamiRae & Tara McGovern.

Good Shepherd Ministry: This week our cards are for Paul Agnew, Robert Bartley, and Paul & Mary Lou Feathers. Please take a moment to sign the cards and share a smile with those unable to join us for worship. Also, remember them in your prayers this week.

Announcements

Zion Book Club: We will meet in person and over zoom on **Monday, March 17th** (*St. Patrick's Day*) at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge to discuss the book, "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Bible Study: Beginning **Wednesday, March 19th**, Diane Santoriello will be leading our new Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons! The topic will be "Psalms." We will meet at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. Everyone welcome!

Pastor Neumann Office Coverage: Pastor Neumann's office days will be Monday: 10-2; Wednesday: 11-3; and Thursday: 1-5. If you need to meet with him after those hours, the best way to reach him is on his cell phone. Here are other ways to get in touch with him:

Cell: 412-401-5720 Home: 412-822-7652

Email: manyneumanns@gmail.com

We give thanks for the life of Alice Bartley who passed away on Thursday, March 13th. Visitation will be at Soxman Funeral Home from 12-5pm this Sunday, March 16th with a service to follow at 5:00pm at the funeral home. Please keep Alice and her family and friends in your prayers.

Graham Standish Working Group Update: The proposal for the future of Zion was presented to the Zion council at their meeting in February. The council will vote on this proposal at their March meeting. Pending the council vote in March, informational sessions will be scheduled with the congregation after that. Please continue to keep this group and its work in your prayers.

Special Offering for Easter: If you would like to purchase an Easter lily or Tulip in honor or memory of someone, or if you would like to donate to our Guest Musician Fund, please see the bulletin insert. You can drop it in the offering plate or mail it along with your check made out to Zion Lutheran Church. **The deadline is April 13th.** Thank you.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations: On Sunday, April 20th, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt here at Zion after worship. If you would like to donate any individually wrapped candy, small trinkets, etc., there will be a basket in the Gathering Space. If you would like to make a cash donation, please see Debbie Rall or Tammy Belohlavek. **The deadline for donations will be Palm Sunday, April 13th.** Thank you in advance!

Food Pantry News: Zion's Food Pantry Leadership received news this week of an Ethel Verney grant award of \$12,000 for the coming year. The news came from the chair of the synod's Mission Endowment Fund Board. This grant, along with donations from the Zion congregation and others, will enable us to continue to purchase food from the Pittsburgh Food Bank and distribute those food items to our neighbors in need.

Thanks be to God for Ethel Verney's life, witness and stewardship! Her generous bequest to the SWPA synod has enabled grants in her name to congregations and ministries throughout the synod, with the provision that the funds provide relief and support for people living in poverty in the area the synod serves.

Food Pantry: Thank you to all who helped with Food Pantry in March. We served 142 households this month!

Food Pantry Donations: Our collection of health and beauty items is looking good, but we could use a little more of some certain items. When shopping, please consider buying deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and/or soap. As always, you can put the items in the bin by the coat rack. Those who come to Zion's Food Pantry really do appreciate these items. Thank you so much

Lutherlyn Summer Camp: Registration has begun! If you are interested in attending summer camp at Lutherlyn during any of the weeks listed on the flyer posted on the kiosk beginning June 15th, please reach out to Debbie Rall. Zion will pay a portion of the cost. Any questions, please see Debbie Rall.

Finances

Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of February 28, 2025

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Offering Income: | \$ 28,919.52 |
| Other Income:* | \$ 11,873.00 |
| Total Income: | \$ 40,792.52 |
| Total Expense: | \$58,823.69 |
| Net: | \$ 18,031.17 |

*Thomas Child Care and Learning Center and other groups who use our facilities.

Prayer Requests

- Annette Felmley has 19 dental students that want to go on the Christian mission trip to Honduras on May 1st. Please pray for 1 or 2 other Christian dentists to come along to help mentor students.
- Please pray for Tom Felmley and his team to discern if they can go to India in April to help with a refugee crisis.
- Pray for healing for the lead doctors' upcoming surgeries.

+ OREMUS +

We are concerned in maintaining a current Prayer List. If you see a name on this list that can be taken off or wish to add a name, please contact Julie in the Church office. If you or someone you know (who is not on the OREMUS) is in need of a pastoral visit, please call the Church office and let them know. Thank you.

Rehab Facility:

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 117)
Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)
Paul and Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

Memory Care Facility:

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Room 46)

Prayers Requested for:

Elouise Brooky
Sandra Short
John Carter
Jenny Fabrizi
Marion Ertel
Wayne Stumpf
Ken Wagner
Sue Z. (friend of Annette Felmley)
Greg Felmley (brother of Tom)
Alanna McGlaughlin, Ella & Meredith
(niece of Gail Snyder)
John Mainarich (son-in-law of Pat Pope)
Shelly Clarke (friend of Kara Albrecht)
Carla Moio (cousin of Linda Mitnik)
Audri Erfort
(cousin of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)
Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)
Michael Gerdich (friend of Rhonda Pope)
Josh Cummings
(nephew of Tony Lamorte)
Patti Wunderley
(sister of Linda Neumann)

Sandy Kovacs (sister of Linda Neumann)
David Uptagraffe (friend of Audri Erfort)
John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette)
Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol)
Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch)
Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson)
Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks)
Sandy Hutchins
(friend of Diane Santoriello)
Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short)
Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope)
Chris Vuocolo
(nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)
Beth Rall
Denise Capobianco
(friend of Sandra Short)

For the family and friends of Debbie
Uccelli she lived in Redwood City, CA
(sister of Janet Mauro)

For the family and friends of Alice Bartley

This Week at Zion

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Sunday, March 16: | 9:30 am | Worship |
| <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> | 10:45 am | Sunday School/Confirmation |
| | 4:30-5:30 pm | EAYC |
| Monday-Friday: | 6:30-8:30 am | Thomas Learning Academy |
| | 2:30-6:00 pm | Before/After School Program |
| Monday, March 17: | 1:00 pm | Zion Book Club (<i>G. Lounge</i>) |
| | 7:00 pm | Council meeting (<i>G. Lounge</i>) |
| Wednesday, March 19: | 1:00 pm | Bible Study (<i>G. Lounge</i>) |
| Thursday, March 20: | 7:00 pm | Lenten Midweek Service (<i>Chapel</i>) |
| | 7:30 pm | Choir (<i>Chapel</i>) |

Zion Lutheran Church, Penn Hills

Rev. Richard Neumann, *Transitional Interim Pastor*

Mr. Andrew Sabol, *Director of Music Ministries*

Mrs. Julie Nieser, *Administrative Secretary*

Rev. William L. Hauser, *Pastor Emeritus*

Dr. Stanley E. Yoder, *Cantor Emeritus*

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