

... this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Philippians 3:13, NRSV

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Old Zionsville, PA

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025 10:30^{AM}

Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

We are a community that cares for one another. Feel free to voice your prayer concerns. Know our hearts join together as we pray. Everyone's voice is needed to tell the good news of God's love in Jesus; whether it be singing hymns, reading lessons, or greeting your neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit <https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion's Church, please visit <http://www.zelcoz.org>.

As We Worship

Facing Death

Mary of Bethany recognizes Jesus' mission: he has come to die. Perceiving the new thing God is doing, she embraces his death and pours out her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant act. The prophet beseeches the Israelites to forget the old pattern of salvation—the dry way through the Red Sea. Now God will make a new way, a wet way, in a dry, barren, and death-filled place.

On this Sunday in Lent, salvation lies not behind us but before us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary's action in the face of death is bold. She anoints a corpse, and in so doing honors Jesus' vulnerability and his life. She models love for the other disciples and for us. By honestly facing the reality of death, we are more fully able to live honoring our own vulnerability and the humanity of others. We live with gratitude. We are more able to love one another and God extravagantly. However, in our culture, mortality is often avoided. The stench of death is removed through chemicals, and deceased bodies are cosmetically enhanced to appear as life-like as possible.

Each day, we the baptized boldly face death, trusting that God has made a new way, a wet way, to travel from death to life. God in Christ has honored human vulnerability by becoming flesh and by laying down his own life. He is the new way through a dry, barren, and death-filled place. Because Christ Jesus has made them his own, the baptized walk wet through the desert places of this life, pouring out the whole of their lives, down to the very last hair, in extravagant love for God and for the people God has formed.

Prelude *“Cornet Voluntary”* by Starling Goodwin
“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” setting by Charles Callahan

The congregation stands.

Processional Hymn *“As We Gather at Your Table”*
ELW 522

Invocation *(Matthew 28.19)*

All may make the sign of the cross in remembering their baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (1 John 1.8-9)

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

Amen.

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

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.

Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day *(2 Corinthians 13.13)*

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.

Let us pray.
Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace
waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing
you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love
given to all through 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 congregation may sit.

First Reading - Isaiah 43.16-21

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered
Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to
do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a
new Exodus.*

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Special Music *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

by Lowell Mason, arr. by Patricia Cota
performed by the Jubilation Ringers

Second Reading—Philippians 3:4b-14

Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born 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 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard 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 one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

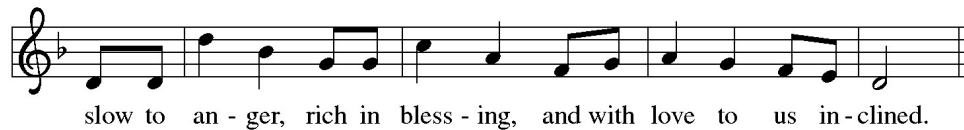
¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to

what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *(John 6.68)*

The congregation stands to greet the gospel and sings:



Holy Gospel - John 12.1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ
Please be seated.

Sermon - The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed

(after a period of silence for reflection, please stand for the hymn).

Hymn of the Day

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

ELW 583

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession (1 Timothy 2.1-2)

Petitions will conclude “God, in your mercy,”
Please respond **“receive our prayer.”**

At the conclusion of the petitions, the presiding minister concludes:
Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace (Romans 16.16)

Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offertory

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

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 un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Thank you for supporting the Ministries of Zion's Lutheran, either by placing a donation in one of the plates/boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary, or by conveniently contributing online at the Vanco Mobile App, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Contributions to Zions can also be made by using your phone camera and positioning it over the QR code to the right.



Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God forever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God forever.

Offering Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Holy Communion

(1 Corinthians 11.23-26)

Great Thanksgiving *(Lamentations 3.41)*

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 presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn: (Isaiah 6.3; Matthew 21.9)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The presiding minister continues, using an appropriate form.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6.9-13)

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Fraction *(1 Corinthians 5.7)*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Hymn *(John 1.29)*

"Lamb of God"



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Invitation to Communion *(Luke 24.30-31)*

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Please be seated.

Musical Selection

Prayer after Communion *(Luke 2.28-32)*

Please rise if you are able.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

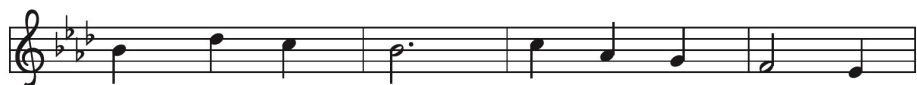
“God’s Work, Our Hands” ACS 1000



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Blessing

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal *(John 20.21)*

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. .

Thanks be to God!



Recessional Hymn

“Guide My Feet” ACS 987, verses 1 and 5

Leader All

1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Postlude

“Remember and Rejoice”

setting by Douglas E. Wagner

Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed (Cell phone 570-856-2078)
Assisting Minister	Cindy Schmaldinst
Director of Music	John Binde
Interim Director of Jubilation Ringers	Susan A. Marin
Acolyte	Aubrey Fegley
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	Nancy and Wayne Bruch

For Those in Need of Prayer

Additional Prayers—Stanley Trout, Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Richard Malburg, Christine Rex, June Trotter, Andy Wheeler, Brian Dries, Sandy Schlicher, Geri Getz, Brenda Snyder, Maverik Wolbach, Carol Mutchler, Holly Washburn, Ferne Druckenmiller, Melissa Yaglowksi, John Hinnerschietz, Joe & Verna-Ann Tacker, Mike Litzenberger, Peg Heminitz, Gerald Diehl, Melanie Wesser and Michelle Lewis.



Today, April 6 th	Adult Forum @ 9:15 ^{AM} Worship @ 10:30 ^{AM}
Monday, April 7 th	Food Pantry Board @ 1:00 ^{PM} Brownies @ 6:30 ^{PM}
Wednesday, April 9 th	Jubilation Ringers @ 6:30 ^{PM} Bible Study at UMMC @ 6:30 ^{PM}

Fifth Sunday in Lent + April 6, 2025

Instead, You Could Have . . .

Not another book of the Bible talks about love the way John talks about love. Even if a person doesn't know another thing about this gospel, never went to vacation Bible school, sang a hymn, sat in a pew, or stared at a stained-glass window, chances are good they will perk up at familiar echoes of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world."

Love is leaking out of this gospel book like water from a hose with no gasket, and who knows where it all goes? "I love you, you should love me," Jesus says. And love one another too—colleagues and culprits, defamers and defenders, the near and the far, bullies, bandits, and bores. "Love." It is Jesus' nonnegotiable command. So you'd expect that the hangers-on, the stick-arounds, the learners and leaders and even the laggards-behind whose names and faces and brief bios show up in John's chapters would be specialists in the art of loving.

Some of those gospel characters were together one night in Bethany, a little village just over the hills from Jerusalem. A dinner (it was holiday time) was being hosted in the home of Jesus' friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. But the festive gathering was menaced. They were on edge in the intimacy of the room. Uneasiness stirred in the streets, rebels' causes brewed in shadows and braved daylight. Rumors and plots swirled as they do in troubled times—times that ignore commands, are deaf to pleas, and mislay impulses to love.

When love does not know what to do or how to act; when it struggles with itself and feels imperfect or too thin, unfinished and inadequate; when the campaigns and monuments and funds and meals and letters seem not enough . . . look at Mary. She leads the way by kneeling at the feet of love itself. There we find the path toward love.

Telling the Story, Learning the Word, Serving our Neighbor.

*"Inviting, welcoming, and supporting our congregation and community
while learning God's word and serving those around us."*

Zion's Vision Statement, 2019

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