

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church Old Zionsville, PA

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026 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

The Devil Doesn't Wear Tights

No one believes in the existence of the devil these days, do they? Do you? Perhaps we can thank Hollywood and Halloween's marketing blitz for our casual if not incredulous approach to the devil's existence. Pointy horns, pitch forks, red costumes, and box office ticket sales continue to shape our culture's collective consciousness of the devil. Though red tights and long tails may be a frightening thought as you consider a costume for a Halloween party, they do nothing to communicate the true terror of an honest-to-God encounter with the devil's power.

This Lent we are called to expunge the fantastical images of the devil from our minds and think seriously about the real presence of evil in our world. We know firsthand about the sin that caused, causes, and will cause suffering to us, our loved ones, our neighbors, our global communities, and creation itself. Sin is real; suffering is real; evil is real; indeed, the devil is real. This oppressive, tangible reality is as real as the air we breathe—felt but not always seen. Greed, envy, rage, hatred, war, discrimination, and apathy are just some of the ways the devil's forces wreak havoc upon us. These forces have one goal and one goal only: to turn us away from the will of God.

Matthew's gospel reorients us to the truth of the devil's power, and calls us to name Satan's presence in the world. In the wilderness Jesus encounters an evil as real as its opposite, resurrection. The great tempter seeks to undermine Jesus' mission before he even begins; testimony that evil has much to fear of our Jesus! Nonetheless, Jesus will not be dissuaded. "Away with you, Satan!" proclaims the redeemer of the cosmos. Thus, the Lenten journey begins—a journey that takes us to the cross, where the devil is named and crushed underfoot.

Prelude

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

setting by Robert Lau

Meditation on *“The Glory of These Forty Days”*

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

setting by Johann Gottfried Walter

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The congregation stands.

Processional Hymn (spoken)

“The Great Litany”

ELW 238

(The congregation may join the procession around the Nave, representing Israel’s 40 year journey in the wilderness and Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness. Once the Ministers enter the chancel, the assembly returns to their pews.)

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.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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 - Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin-cloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you for-
gave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near
you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading—Romans 5.12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *(John 6.68)*

The congregation stands to greet the gospel and sings:



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Holy Gospel - Matthew 4.1-11

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

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

ELW 320

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.**

Since today's service began with the Great Litany, the Prayers of Intercession are omitted.

The Sharing of the Peace *(Romans 16.16)*

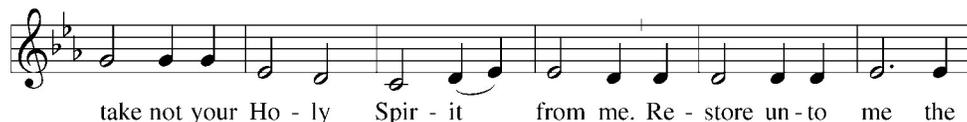
Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offertory

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"



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.



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

Let us pray.

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.

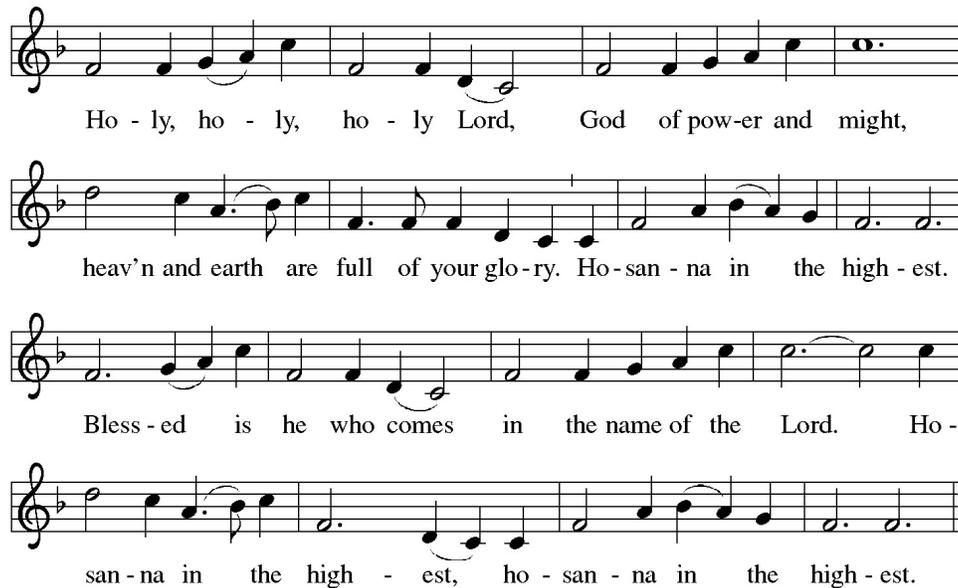
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

Let us pray.

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 Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

ELW 841

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Dismissal *(John 20.21)*

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

“Postlude on St. Thomas”

setting by Douglas Wagner



Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed <i>(Cell phone 570-856-2078)</i>
Assisting Minister	Elliott Fegley
Director of Music	John Binde
Acolyte	Evan Fegley
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	Ellen and Joe Litzenberger

For Those in Need of Prayer

Additional Prayers—Stanley Trout, Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Christine Rex, June Trotter, Sandy Schlicher, Brenda Snyder, Maverik Wolbach, Holly Washburn, Melissa Yaglowski, John Hinnerschietz, Verna-Ann Tacker, Gerald Diehl, Melanie Wesser, Michelle Lewis, Terri Lindenmuth, Earl Howell, Jared Washburn, Carol Yokum, Mark Sinex, Larry Kriebel, Cooper Miller, Andrew Marks, Daryl Bohn and Viola Bartholomew.



Today, February 22 nd	Adult Forum @ 9:15 ^{AM}
	Worship @ 10:30 ^{AM}
Monday, February 23 rd	Brownies @ 6:30 ^{PM}
Tuesday, February 24 th	Congregation Council @ 7:00 ^{PM}
Wednesday, February 25 th	Jubilation Ringers @ 6:30 ^{PM}



For Children who are in the 1st to 7th Grades...

Sunday School will be offered for children who attend 1st to 7th Grades. The combined class will be held generally **once a month** at **9:15^{AM}** and will run until 10:15^{AM}. Classes will be held on March 1st and March 15th. For more information or to register your child/children, contact Teresa Marks (tam1029@earthlink.net or 610-509-1488). Come to learn more about God and Jesus through reading Bible stories, playing games and doing crafts. Hope to see you there!

The Finance Committee needs a person for the Audit Committee. It is a three-year term and the committee meets 2 to 3 times early in the year to audit the records of the treasurers for Zion's, the Endowment fund, and the Cemetery Association. When the audit is complete, the committee is finished until next year. If interested or for any questions, please contact Isabel Miller - isbarmill@ptd.net or 610-967-4836.



Church Cancellation Notice Due to Bad Weather

If we have inclement weather on a Sunday, please be sure to check WORSHIP CHANGES on WFMZ.COM. Zion's will be listed as "Zions Lutheran—Old Zionsville."

5th Annual "On a Roll" Toilet Paper Drive **Hosted by the Lehigh Conference of Churches**

Toilet paper is a basic necessity that many people struggle to afford or cannot easily access. When the Conference receives toilet paper donations, they are carefully distributed to make the greatest impact. Their Street Outreach team delivers them directly to individuals living in encampments, those who visit their Drop-In Center and are in need, etc.



You may contribute monetarily by placing a donation in the White Church. Donations of toilet paper may be placed in bins located in the narthex and next to the church office.

Thank you for contributing to this worthy cause!

First Sunday in Lent + February 22, 2026

Forty Days of Humility

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, ‘What can get through from such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility’” (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.

Cherish God's Love

*“Cherishing God's Love, we seek to foster Relationships of
Faith, Fellowship, Family, and Fun
within our church and our community.”*

Zion's Vision Statement, 2026

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