



ASH WEDNESDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
February 18, 2026 – Noon & 7:00 PM

# WELCOME!

We are delighted you are here today! No matter who you are, or where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at Zion. All, without exception, are welcome to Holy Communion.

Today we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with ashes, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ashes trace the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

We invite you to wear a name tag. Single use name tags are available on the welcome table in the gathering space. When you desire one, a permanent name tag will be provided.



Connect with us or update your contact information! Please scan this QR code using your phone. You can indicate prayer requests and find a link to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. You may also fill out a Welcome Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

We are blessed to be able **livestream** our worship service, available on YouTube and the Zion Facebook page. While our cameras are generally directed at the front of the sanctuary, please be aware that you may appear in the livestream.

Wi-Fi Network: Zion Guest    Wi-Fi Password: Zion5822321

Prayer Podium – inside the center entrance to the sanctuary is a Prayer Podium where you can write your prayer request(s) to be included in today's Prayers of Intercession.

We welcome children of all ages and we welcome the sounds and actions that accompany them. Children are invited to enjoy the carpeted space in the rear of the worship space. There are activity bags and our Kids Station in the same area.

All floors of the building are accessible by elevator. Special seating areas in the sanctuary are available to support those with wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers.

# GATHERING

*The assembly gathers in silence*

*\* Indicates stand as you are able*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God, to confess our sin and prepare for the Lenten Season.

## PSALM 51 & PRAYER OF THE DAY \*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## GREETING

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

Let us pray. 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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness 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.**

## WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn

assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

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


## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION \*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 \*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

## INVITATION TO LENT – *The pastor invites the assembly to the discipline of Lent*

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' pass over 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY 631 \*

*Love Divine All Loves Excelling*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous 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, and 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, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Let us pray. Almighty God, **you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*All who wish to receive ashes, please come forward by the center aisle of the sanctuary.*

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all stand, and the minister continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE \*

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

With gratitude, we receive offerings during worship to support the mission and ministries of Zion Lutheran Church. You may make your offering in one of two ways:

- ✚ By placing your offering in the plate that is passed now or
- ✚ By scanning the QR code with your phone.



## MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

## 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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*To receive the bread, place one hand in the other, like a manger or a bowl. Once you receive the bread, you may continue to the side to intinct the wafer in either wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing only, simply cross your arms in an x form across your chest and you will receive a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMN 490 Vss 1-3

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

## TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER \*

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

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING \*

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL \*

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

## TODAY'S MINISTRY LEADERS

	<u>NOON</u>	<u>7:00 PM</u>
Presiding & Preaching Minister	Rev. Tony Auer	Rev. Tony Auer
Assisting Minister	Marc Foulks	Liz Prystas
Organist/Pianist	David Chamberlin	David Chamberlin
Altar Guild	Ann Marie Mogren	Holly Graham
Ushers	Tracy Hackworth	Doug Graham

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Friday – offices closed

The Rev. Tony Auer, Interim Pastor	<a href="mailto:prt@zelc.org">prt@zelc.org</a>
David Chamberlin, Organist	<a href="mailto:david@chamberlinmusic.com">david@chamberlinmusic.com</a>
Dave Zabriskie, Chancel Choir Director	<a href="mailto:davecomposer@gmail.com">davecomposer@gmail.com</a>
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Congregation Council:

President: Joe Darnell; Vice-President: Ross Anthony; Treasurer: Dennis Gross;  
Secretary: Liz Prystas; Sabrina Bell, David Buff, Jon Hall, Steve Newton, Cynthia Rowatt,  
Gavin Tonkyro



Zion Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation – We are committed to being a loving and welcoming community of faith in Jesus Christ. As a community of God, we welcome all. We celebrate the manner in which diversity enriches, nurtures, and challenges the life and ministry we share in Christ. Our Table is open and we invite all to full participation in the life of our church regardless of race, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, socio-economic and marital statuses, physical or mental capacities, age, or social position. We commit to the work of anti-racism and all forms of structural, systemic, institutional, and personal bias.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Weekly Lenten Worship** - begins Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> with soup supper at 6:00 PM downstairs in the Terrace Room, followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

**Caring Connections Prayer Circle Requests** - Are you, or someone you care about, in need of prayer? Please send your prayer requests to Holly Graham (40Grambo@msn.com). Holly will forward them to the dedicated members of our developing prayer circle. *May our prayers rise up like incense before God!*

**Bi-Monthly Mission January / February - Volunteer of America, Utah Youth Resource Center.** Volunteers of America (VOA) is a nationwide ministry of service, carried out by both professional employees and volunteers, all dedicated to helping the most vulnerable members of society. To learn more about VOA, Utah, visit [voautah.org](http://voautah.org). You may contribute to this remarkable ministry through Zion's online gifting portal ("bimonthly mission") or by noting "VOA, Utah" on your check or envelope.

**Crossroads Urban Center** – Share donations of food/small household items. The drop off bin is directly under the stairway leading to the balcony. Current needs: canned soups & coats & blankets.