

Holy Spirit, fill us with compassion for others that we may give as you have given to us. Turn our hearts toward you and your mercy and grace. Humble us, by your mighty power, that we may cling to Jesus alone for life. In your compassionate love, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you are the physician of body and soul. We humbly ask that you would heal those who are dealing with illness and injury according to your will as they wait upon your healing, and work through their struggle to reveal your mighty power and love in their lives. In your compassionate love, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

### LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

## SENDING

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and show you His compassionate love. **Amen.**

### HYMN #547 — *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE



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



# ZION Lutheran Church

MARCH 18, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION



## Stephen

*The Man Who Gave His All*

# PRELUDE

## INVOCATION & CONFESSION

Pastor: In the name of the Father,

People: **Who has compassion on those whom he has created;**

Pastor: and of the Son,

People: **Who has compassion on those whom he has redeemed;**

Pastor: and of the Holy Spirit,

People: **Who has continual compassion on those in whom he dwells.  
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

Pastor: As we continue this Lenten journey of love, and reflect on the extreme compassion our Lord God has for us even though we don't deserve it, let us confess our sinfulness, and plead for God's mercy on us.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)*

People: **Heavenly Father, I, a destitute and unworthy sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you. I don't deserve your compassion. I deserve your wrath and punishment, I have sinned in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have sinned by doing bad things and by failing and forgetting to do good things. I plead for your mercy and grace. Have compassion on me, a poor sinful being.**

Pastor: God has, indeed, had compassion on you, and has taken away your sin! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen!**

## HYMN #524 — *What Is This Place*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

People: **Lord God, you have compassion on whom you will, and mercy on whom you will. You desire all to believe and to come to a knowledge of the truth. As we reflect on your compassionate love for us today, fill us with your Spirit so that we may have that same compassion for others. Amen.**

## WORD

### Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

### HYMN #659 — *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

## PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, your compassion fills us with peace, because we know that it will never end. We humbly ask that you show the world this compassion that they may know you as we do, and may live in your house forever. In your compassionate love, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, over and over again you showed compassion to humanity while you were here on earth. Ultimately you showed it by dying on the cross so that death, the devil, and hell would never harm us. Make us ever thankful that you paid the price we could not pay, so that our thankfulness and praise will resound to the ends of the earth. In your compassionate love, **Hear our prayer.**