

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

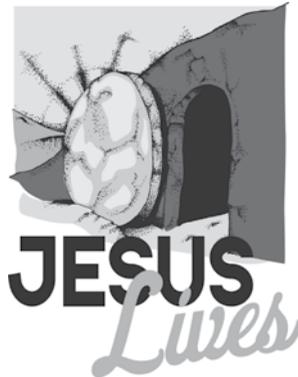
BENEDICTION

HYMN #621 — *Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fifth Sunday in Lent

MARCH 22, 2026

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

“Never Let Go of Me” — Kids of the Kingdom [10:30 AM]

LOUD OFFERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for Your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us through your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in Christ's righteousness. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN #712 — *Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*

GREETING

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING — *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. The Lord said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then the Lord said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

SECOND READING — *Romans 8:6-11*

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law — indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through this Spirit dwelling in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL — *John 11:1-45*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*“I am the
resurrection
and the life.”*
JOHN 11:25

CHILDRENS’ SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #750 — *Lord, Thee I Love With all My Heart*

BAPTISM — *Elsie Mae Hass* [SEE-INSERT-10:30 AM]

APOSTLES’ CREED [5 PM & 8 AM]

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** ... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek