

ZION Lutheran Church

MARCH 19, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION



John

A Person After the Lord's Own Heart

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 #325 — *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

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.**

1 John 4:13-21

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #708 — *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

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.**

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 #720 — *We Are Called*

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

