

Zion Lutheran Church



***9 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024***

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Denotes Congregation is to stand, if able*

PASCHAL GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*OPENING SONG *Medley: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today/Celebrate Jesus* Worship Team

*APOSTOLIC 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

FIRST READING (📖 **Thanks be to God.**)

Acts 10:34-43

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts
valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and
give thanks to the LORD.**

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become
my salvation.**

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 16:1-8

(after the reading of the Gospel)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***SONG OF THE DAY**

At the Cross (Love Ran Red)

Worship Team

***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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (☩ Amen.)**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to look around at your sisters and brothers and offer a sign of peace through a wave, a smile or a message.

OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC

Above All

Worship Team

Thank you all for the gifts of time, talent, and treasures you give to support the mission at Zion. We cannot do our work without your participation in all three areas. To give financially, please give either online or in the offering plate that the ushers will pass in between pews. You can also scan the QR code to be taken to our online giving portal.



*OFFERTORY PRAYER (🙏 Amen.)

*THE 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 our thanks and praise.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (🙏 Amen.)

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*FRACTION SENTENCE

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion this day. During communion distribution, an usher will invite your pew row to come forward. If you need the pastor to bring you communion, please let an usher know. When you come forward for communion, the pastor or assisting minister will say similar words: "The body of Christ, given for you," and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Your response to each is "Amen." There is a gluten free and grape juice option available if you need this. Know that Christ is fully present in the bread and the wine. If you are only able to receive one kind (such as only the host or only the wine), know that you will receive the same benefits as receiving both. Return your empty glass to the baskets. Children and those not ready to receive communion this day may receive a blessing.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*You Are My King
The Old Rugged Cross*

Worship Team
Chris Derr

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (🙏 Amen.)

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (℣ Amen.)

*BENEDICTION (℣ Amen.)

*SENDING SONG

My Redeemer Lives

Worship Team

*DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

As we go out into the world, let us remember our mission.

As a people of God, we share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Understanding the Paschal Season

Any story about God is a story about the cross. This includes the nativity, the epiphany narrative, the wedding at Cana, the miracles, the teachings, as well as the passion. These stories all point us to the crucified and risen Christ. This season of Easter is when we fully immerse ourselves into the Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Candle will remain front and center at the altar throughout Easter (the paschal season) as a reminder to everyone that our Lord is present and that this is a special time in the church.

But why doesn't the Paschal Candle remain at the altar after Easter? Once we move ourselves out of full immersion of the paschal season and into the season of ordinary time, it is at this time that we move the candle to the place where the Paschal Mystery is made most evident—baptism. In baptism, we are linked to our Lord's death and resurrection. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans 6: If we have been united in a death like his, we shall certainly be united in a resurrection like his. Therefore, we place the Paschal Candle near the font as a reminder to everyone of this holy promise given to us in baptism and we light the Paschal Candle to remind us of the Paschal season. The Paschal Candle is also lit at funerals. At a funeral, the candle is placed near the coffin as a reminder to everyone in the congregation of the Paschal Mystery: that because of the deceased's baptism, he or she is linked to our Lord's death and in turn, linked to our Lord's resurrection. We light the Paschal Candle at these moments (and these moments alone) as a reminder of the Paschal Mystery that we are brought into through baptism.

What is the Paschal Mystery? During the season of Easter, we will come back to the topic of the Paschal Mystery. "The Paschal Mystery is a real event that occurred in our history, but it is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. The Paschal Mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past because by his

death, he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all of humanity - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life. Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us but actualizes them, makes them present. The Paschal Mystery of Christ is celebrated, not repeated. It is the celebrations that are repeated, and in each celebration, there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that makes the unique mystery present” (Taken from www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s1c1a1.htm#1085). Simply put, what we do here in worship is the Paschal Mystery and the best to begin understand the Paschal Mystery is to be present in worship. Easter last 50 days because one day cannot contain the entire Paschal Mystery. Today begins the journey.

The Church Year is not a walk-through of Christ's life, but an ordered, open exploration of the effects of Christ's presence. This is important to remember—that what we do the rest of the year matters. The entire church year points us to the cross of Christ. Even on days such as Reformation Sunday and Christmas morning, the crucified and risen Christ must be proclaimed by the faithful gathered in Holy worship.

Today, we will begin this 50 day journey of rediscovering the Paschal Mystery and its joy. The great fast of Lent is over. Our Lord, who has been crucified, has been raised from the dead. It might sound silly to say week after week, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!” but it is because of this truth, death has lost the war, Satan has lost his grip on humanity, and the world will never be the same again. **Alleluia! Christ is risen!!! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents by Frank, Becky Ropp and Family



Zion Prayer List 3-31-2024

Requests remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless requested otherwise.

Margaret Guyton, Bob Hetrick, Tim Quinn, Joe Elliot, Beth H., Mike Lingertot, Janet Rhinecker, Evelyn Hawker, Ruth Kuhn, Ursula Powell, Diane Elizabeth, Marianna Bere, Julie Swiney, Family of Isabella Kelly, Pat Hansen, Jane Nalborczyk, Deborah Shinault, Lucretia Reaves, Eric Kinna, Ronnie Kinna, Tex and Linda Stottlemeyer, Anita, Dawn Shinault, Linda Crummitt, Frank Roys, Gary, Kay & Michael Wachter, Michael Easton, Frank Mrazek, The Hubble Family, Sheri Huckleberry, Pat McIntosh, Nancy Newkirk, Tristan Vail, Beth Smith, Kris Marcantonio, Lorene Huffer, Bruce Albright, Marty Appleby, Judith Smith, Jim Pearson, Darlah Adams, Jackie Bello, Trish Tollefson, Skippy Zimmerman, Sarah Gladhill, Anna Kepler, Ruby Pyles, Addison Hopson, Kevin Kinna, Deb Kahihikolo, Janice Wisner

Death: Anna Kepler

Servants in God's House

March 31, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Rosella Wilson (Greeter)
Pat McMorrow (Lector)
Eddie Main (Head Usher)
Terry Poffinberger (Sanctuary Usher)
Lois Ahalt (Comm Asst)
Carolyn Milauskas (PowerPoint)
Rick Milauskas (Live Stream)

Servants in God's House

April 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Jamie Derr (Greeter)
Ike Ahalt (Lector)
Ike Ahalt (Head Usher)
Rosella Wilson (Sanctuary Usher)
Lois Ahalt (Comm Asst)
Levi Derr (PowerPoint)
Needed (Live Stream)



Zion Lutheran Church

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*For emergency pastoral care or to schedule
an appointment, please call the church office
for additional information.*

The Rev. Diane Day—Co-Pastor

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The Rev. Matt Day—Co-Pastor

ext. 209, pastormatt@zionmiddletown.org

Deb Reichelt - Treasurer

treasurer@zionmiddletown.org

Kaye Derr-Financial Secretary

financialsecretary@zionmiddletown.org

Matt Puziss - Director Worship Team

mattpuziss@gmail.com

Bobby Staples - Director of Traditional Music Ministry

rstaples93@gmail.com

Emily Hopson – Children’s Choir Director

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