

Zion Lutheran Church  
Wednesday Lenten Service  
March 20, 2024



# Teach Me



Peter's posture toward Jesus is that of an open book. He is eager to learn from Jesus all he can glean. In this week's text, he wants to know all about the nature of forgiveness and grace.

# Zion Lutheran Church

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*\*please stand as you are comfortable for those sections marked with an asterisk (\*)*

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**PRELUDE:** Return to You (music video)



**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Respond with the bold text)

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

**Why are *you* here?**

I am seeking God with my whole heart,  
with my entire mind,  
with a fire burning in my bones.

**We see that in you! You're in the right place.**

**This is God's house. The door is open to you.**

Let us worship God.

**Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!**

**WELCOME**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM** (words by Meta Herrick Carlson)

This is a blessing that remembers your baptism

**and tells a story  
even if your memory cannot.**

It watched a community gather around you.

**It heard the water poured  
and felt the love expand.**

This blessing will travel every distance with assurance

**that baptism's promise  
does not wear thin over time.**

The gift is hardy and sure.

You could not break it if you tried.

**Life has a firm grip on you,  
Beloved One.**

It is more than enough. And so are you.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:**

**"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**Verse 1** Come thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee, may I still thy goodness prove.

**Verse 2** Here I raise my Ebenezer, here by thy great help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

**Verse 3** Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace, now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

"Come Thou Fount" CCLI Song #108389; Words & Music by John Wyeth, Robert Robertson  
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### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, it is so easy to put into words the best ways to live in community, but it's not so easy to put into practice. People are messy; we make mistakes. Give us the courage to speak up when someone hurts us or others. Give us the courage to say we're sorry and make amends. Give us the courage to keep forgiving, over and over again. **Amen.**

## WORD

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song**

### **FIRST READING: Teach Me (a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)**

Teach me about the ways of the wind,  
about the ways of the world,  
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of *I'm sorry*  
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance, about *seventy-times-seven*  
and *all the days of my life*.

Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving  
and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.  
Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.

Teach me what matters most.  
Teach me what is mine to do.

Teach this achingly curious heart  
until I run out of questions  
or I run out of days.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
and I will have a life well-lived.

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15-22 (The Message Bible Translation)**

<sup>15-17</sup> [Jesus taught his disciples saying,] "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell them—work it out between the two of you. If they listen, you've made a friend. If they won't listen, take one

or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If they still won't listen, tell the church. If they won't listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront them with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love.

<sup>18-20</sup> "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

<sup>21</sup> At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Lord, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**



### **FAITH STORY SHARING: Teach Me**

\* Share about someone who helped you learn something about God or about living a life of faith. What did you learn from them?

\* What are some of the most important things you have learned about God so far?

\* Do you wish for more straightforward answers to faith, or do you find comfort in resting in the mystery of what you don't know about God? Why is that?

### **SONG of the DAY:**

#### **"Amazing Love"**

**Verse** I'm forgiven because you were forsaken. I'm accepted, you were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, your Spirit is within me because you died and rose again.  
(repeat)

**Chorus** **Amazing love, how can it be that you, my King, would die for me? Amazing love, I know it's true; and it's my joy to honor you.**

**Verse**

**Chorus**

**Tag** In all I do I honor you.

**Bridge** You are my King, you are my King.

Jesus, you are my King. Jesus, you are my King.

**Chorus**

**Tag** 2x

"You Are My King," CCLI Song #2456623; Words & Music by Billy Foote; ©1996 worshipaltogether.com songs  
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### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

**All:** *"How many times should I forgive?"*

*"Jesus, where are you going?"*

*"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

*"Where does it hurt?"*

*"What do you need?"*

*"How can I help?"*

We believe that God is a teacher.

***“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”***

***“Here I am.”***

***“Send me.”***

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

***with all our heart,***

***with all our mind,***

***with all our strength.***

We believe. Help our unbelief.

### **SHARING THE PEACE\***

Leader      The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All          **And also with you.** (*Share Christ's peace with one another*)

### **OFFERING**

*We offer our gifts and our hearts in service for our neighbor and for the mission of God through the church.*

### **OFFERING SONG:**

#### **“In the Secret”**

**Verse 1**      In the secret in the quiet place  
                 In the stillness you are there  
                 In the secret in the quiet hour  
                 I wait only for you  
                 ‘cause I want to know you more

**Chorus**                      I want to know you  
(2x last x only)          I want to hear your voice  
                                 I want to know you more  
                                 I want to touch you  
                                 I want to see your face  
                                 I want to know you more (tag: last time) In the secret, in the quiet place

**Verse 2**      I am reaching for the highest goal  
                 That I might receive the prize  
                 Pressing onward, pushing every hindrance aside  
                 Out of my way  
                 ‘cause I want to know you more

**Chorus**

Andy Park – CCLI #1277795

### **OFFERING PRAYER:**

Leader: Let us pray, we thank you for the many gifts you give us. Help us to use these gifts to share your love and mercy with the world. You never let us walk this path of faith alone. Thank you for surrounding us with saints and friends who affirm our call as disciples and encourage us in our faith. With gratitude, we offer our gifts and our lives to you again this night. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER\***

Leader: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

## **SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

## **MISSION & MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING SONG\***

### **“Your Hands”**

**Verse 1** I have unanswered prayers, I have trouble I wish wasn't there.  
And I have asked a thousand ways, that you would take my pain away.  
That you would take my pain away.

**Verse 2** I am trying to understand how to walk this weary land.  
Make straight the paths that crooked lie, oh Lord, before these feet of mine.  
Oh Lord, before these feet of mine.

**Chorus** **When my world is shaking, heaven stands.  
When my heart is breaking, I never leave your hands.**

**Verse 3** When you walked upon the earth, you healed the broken, lost and hurt.  
I know you hate to see me cry, one day you will set all things right.  
One day you will set all things right.

**Chorus**

**Bridge** Your hands that shaped the world are holding me, they hold me still. (2x)

**Chorus** (2x)

CCLI Song #5673214; Words & Music by David Heller, JJ Heller, Katie Herzig  
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### **SENDING BLESSING & DISMISSAL\***

L: Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.  
May you look for God in every face.  
May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith.  
And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within,  
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."  
You are called. You are blessed.  
In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God.

L: Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER CHAIN MISSION:** Each week, a family name will be drawn at random from the mailing list, and that family will be prayed for during the next week. The family will receive a note in the mail to let them know about the prayers.

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Please submit any prayer requests to a member of the prayer chain: Linda Moe 715-398-6779.

**Prayers of Healing:** Barry Kilner, Michael Pelletier, James Dolsen Sr., and Ric Adrihan.

**Prayers of Protection:**

Nathan Anthony, Mathew Sherwood, Nathan Madsen, Keely Nelson, Andrew Hutton, Andrew Mattson, Joshua Seifert, and for all those who are in military service throughout the world and their families; and for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMT's, and all who put themselves at risk for others.

**Prayers of Comfort:**

Those homebound or in nursing homes: Jerry and Marilee, Ann Johnson, Sharon Miller, Alice Mattson, Ellie Mae Nelson, and Delores Mackie. And for the family of Esther Nolan.

**Prayers for Strength & Guidance:** Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Our Church Council, our lay leaders, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson and our Synod Staff, and for all those who stand up for justice in Jesus' name.

**Thank you to all who pray faithfully.**

*(To add or remove a name, please call the office. 715-398-3663 Thank you.)*

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Scan the QR code to give using a PayPal account and coming soon, there will be a giving kiosk with card reader to be able to use just a credit card.



Each gift is an important part of supporting the mission and ministry of Zion Lutheran Church as we join together to participate in God's mission in the world. Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!

## Calendar of Events

<u>Wed, Mar 20</u>	Newsletter Articles due 12pm "Giving It Up" Sermon Series, Concordia Lutheran 1:30pm Bible Study 5pm LOGOS 5:45pm Free congregational dinner 6:15pm Lenten Service	<u>Tue, Mar 26</u>	6pm Wandering Heart Groups 7:30pm Wandering Heart ZOOM
<u>Thu, Mar 21</u>	1pm Sew-N-Sews 6pm Church Council	<u>Wed, Mar 27</u>	NO Bible Study NO LOGOS
<u>Sun, Mar 24</u>	9am & 10:45am Worship; 9:45-10:45am Sunday School 3-5pm First Communion Class	<u>Thu, Mar 28</u>	1pm Sew'n Sews 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service & First Communion
<u>Mon, Mar 25</u>	4:30pm Choir; 5:30pm Bells	<u>Fri, Mar 29</u>	6:30pm Good Friday Service
		<u>Sat, Mar 30</u>	9am Logos Breakfast Prep 6:30pm Easter Vigil Service
		<u>Sun, Mar 31</u>	8:30-10:30am Logos Breakfast served Easter Sunday, 9am & 10:45am Worship No Sunday School

## ***WELCOME!***

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail, or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or if you couldn't carry a tune in a wheelbarrow. You're welcome here if you are "just browsing," just woke up or just out of jail. We don't care if you're more Lutheran than the beloved Martin himself, or haven't been in church since little Joey's baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, or you're down in the dumps, or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the race track, you are welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who believe the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We extend a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by accident. We welcome tourists, seekers, and doubters, bleeding hearts and you!

*Adapted from "Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community"*