Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

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(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org

Welcome to Zion!

"Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love..."

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.

Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.

Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.

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

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

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

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

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. 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.**

GATHERING HYMN — ELW Hymn #780

"Shepherd Me, O God"

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.**

KYRIE — ELW Hymn #157

The assembly joins with the refrain, and the Minister sings the verses.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together…**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

FIRST READING — 1 Samuel 16:1-13

…Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

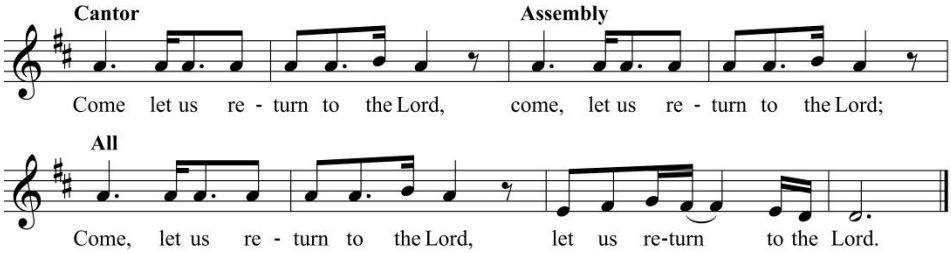
PSALM RESPONSE — Psalm 23

"Good Shepherd" — arr. Peter J. Rizzo

SECOND READING — Ephesians 5:8-14

…Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 9:1-41

Before the reading: The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace" (My Chains Are Gone)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

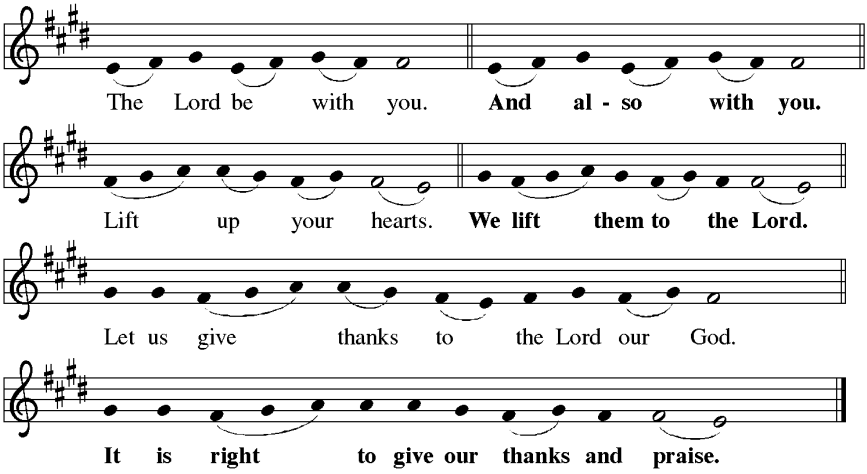
OFFERTORY HYMN & PRAYER ELW Hymn #320

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

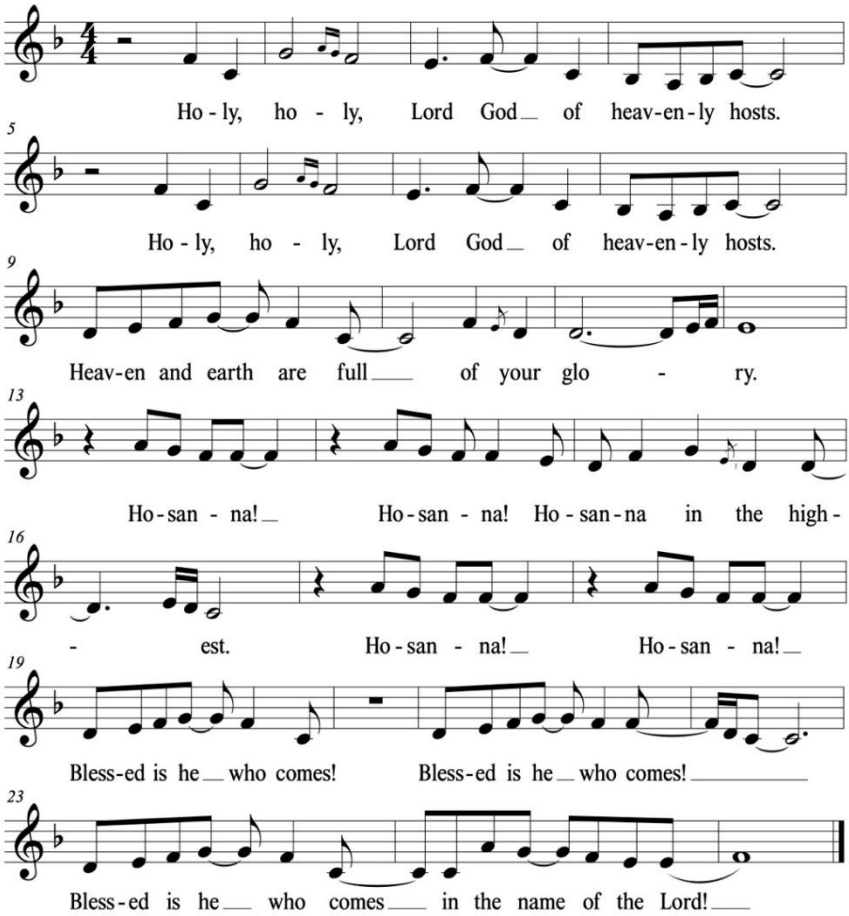
Let us pray together…**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



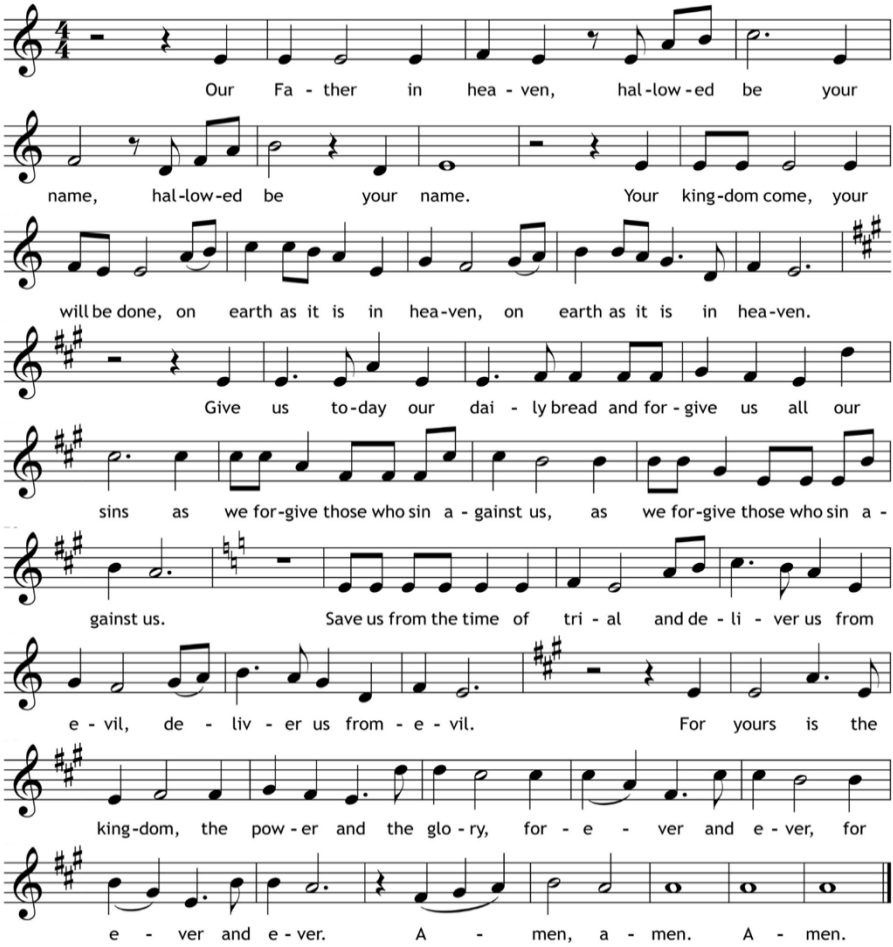
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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



SHARING THE MEAL

During the season of Lent, our meal is shared in silence.
You are encouraged to use this time for prayer and contemplation.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together…**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.**

BLESSING

Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW Hymn #325

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Walk with others as Christ walks with you. **Thanks be to God!**

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Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading — 1 Samuel 16:1-13 [not printed]

Psalm — Psalm 23; tone 4

The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down**
| in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.
3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways
| for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley**
of the shadow of death,
I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they | comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is | running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy**
shall follow me
all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of the | LORD forever.

Second Reading — Ephesians 5:8-14 [not printed]

Gospel — John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man
blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked
him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his
parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus
answered, "Neither this man nor his par-
ents sinned; he was born blind so that
God's works might be revealed in him.
4 We must work the works of him who sent
me while it is day; night is coming when
no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the
world, I am the light of the world." 6 When
he had said this, he spat on the ground
and made mud with the saliva and spread
the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him,
"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which
means Sent). Then he went and washed
and came back able to see. 8 The neigh-
bors and those who had seen him before
as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the
man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some
were saying, "It is he." Others were saying,
"No, but it is someone like him." He kept

continued

saying, "I am he." [10]But they kept asking
him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"
[11]He answered, "The man called Jesus
made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said
to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I
went and washed and received my sight."
[12]They said to him, "Where is he?" He
said, "I do not know."

[13]They brought to the Pharisees the man
who had formerly been blind. [14]Now it was
a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud
and opened his eyes. [15]Then the Pharisees
also began to ask him how he had received
his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on
my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."
[16]Some of the Pharisees said, "This man
is not from God, for he does not observe
the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a
man who is a sinner perform such signs?"
And they were divided. [17]So they said again
to the blind man, "What do you say about
him? It was your eyes he opened." He said,
"He is a prophet."

[18]The Jews did not believe that he had
been blind and had received his sight
until they called the parents of the man
who had received his sight [19]and asked
them, "Is this your son, who you say was
born blind? How then does he now see?"
[20]His parents answered, "We know that
this is our son, and that he was born blind;
[21]but we do not know how it is that now
he sees, nor do we know who opened his
eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak
for himself." [22]His parents said this be-
cause they were afraid of the Jews; for the
Jews had already agreed that anyone who
confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would
be put out of the synagogue. [23]Therefore
his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

[24]So for the second time they called the
man who had been blind, and they said
to him, "Give glory to God! We know that
this man is a sinner." [25]He answered, "I
do not know whether he is a sinner. One
thing I do know, that though I was blind,
now I see." [26]They said to him, "What
did he do to you? How did he open your
eyes?" [27]He answered them, "I have told
you already, and you would not listen.
Why do you want to hear it again? Do
you also want to become his disciples?"
[28]Then they reviled him, saying, "You are
his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
[29]We know that God has spoken to Moses,
but as for this man, we do not know where
he comes from." [30]The man answered,
"Here is an astonishing thing! You do not
know where he comes from, and yet he
opened my eyes. [31]We know that God does
not listen to sinners, but he does listen to
one who worships him and obeys his will.
[32]Never since the world began has it been
heard that anyone opened the eyes of a
person born blind. [33]If this man were not
from God, he could do nothing." [34]They
answered him, "You were born entirely in
sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And
they drove him out.

[35]Jesus heard that they had driven him
out, and when he found him, he said, "Do
you believe in the Son of Man?" [36]He an-
swered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so
that I may believe in him." [37]Jesus said to
him, "You have seen him, and the one
speaking with you is he." [38]He said, "Lord,
I believe." And he worshiped him. [39]Jesus
said, "I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see may see and
those who do see may become blind."
[40]Some of the Pharisees near him heard
this and said to him, "Surely we are not
blind, are we?" [41]Jesus said to them, "If
you were blind, you would not have sin.
But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin re-
mains."

TODAY'S READINGS March 15, 2026 Volume 57, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45.

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