#### THE MATINS SERVICE OF PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### STANDING STRONG + GROWING TOGETHER + REACHING OUT

#### **The Second Sunday Of Easter**

**April 11, 2021** 

#### **AS WE GATHER**

We tend to look for things to make faith easier. Signs, wonders, or just little hints here and there would help. But the disciples had all these things and heard Jesus promise His resurrection, and still they gathered behind the locked doors of their fears. What we do have is Christ, His Word that bestows and sustains our faith, and His Holy Sacrament wherein He feeds us with His body and blood. Though we have not seen with our eyes, we see with faith and join with doubting Thomas to confess, "My Lord and my God!"



David Garcia, *organ* Pastor Stephen Heimer

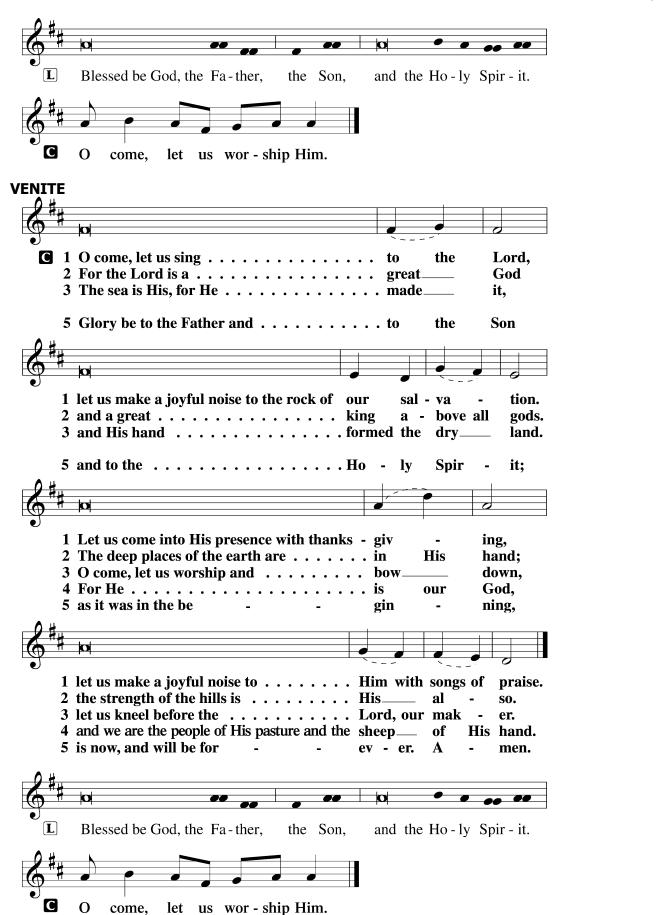
## PRELUDE WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP



**INVOCATION** 

Psalm 95:1-7, with antiphon

Psalm 100



PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

- Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
- Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.
- Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!
- P Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!
- Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children!
- Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.
- Praise the LORD!



FIRST READING

(The believers were of one heart and soul.)

Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup>The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

#### **EPISTLE READING**

(If we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ.)

1 John 1:1-2:2

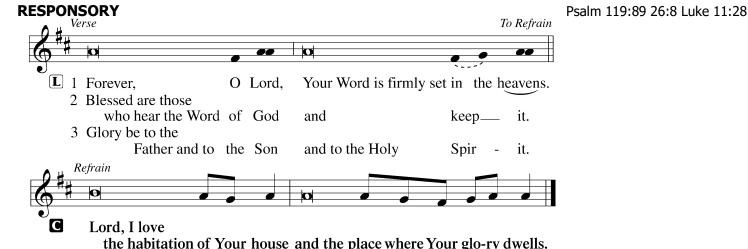
<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.



**GOSPEL** (Blessed are those who have not heard and yet believe.) John 20:19–31

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

#### **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

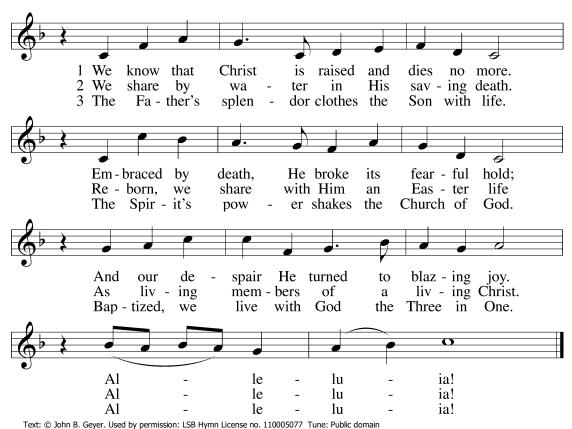
<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

#### Praise to You, O Christ.

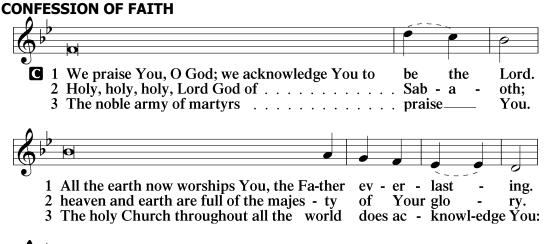


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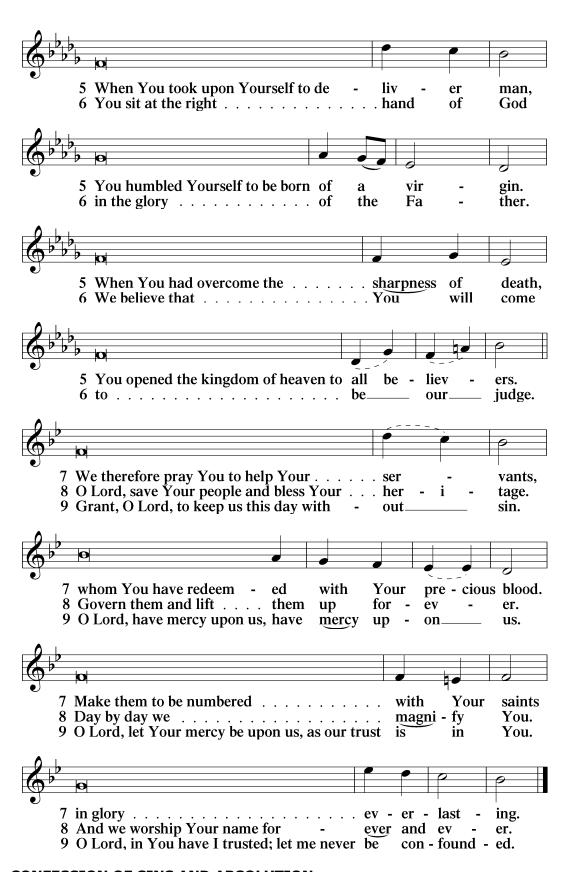
**SERMON** 

"The Greatest Miracle"

"Te Deum" LSB 223



- 1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
  2 The glorious company of the apostles . . . . . . . praise You.
  3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on ly Son;
  4 You are the king of glory, . . . . . . . . . . . . . O \_\_\_\_\_ Christ;
- 1 To You cherubim and seraphim con tin ual ly do cry:
  2 The goodly fellowship of the . . . . proph-ets praise You.
  3 also the Holy . . . . . . . . . . . Ghost, the Com-fort er.
  - 3 also the Holy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ghost, the Com-fort er. 4 You are the everlasting Son . . . . . of the Fa ther.



#### **CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION**

1 John 1:1-2:2

- P If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness,
- we lie and do not practice the truth.
- P But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,
- and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **P** If we say we have not sinned,
- we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
- P Almighty and everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy, You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in Your service; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

#### Silence for reflection.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
- Amen.
- P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Amen.

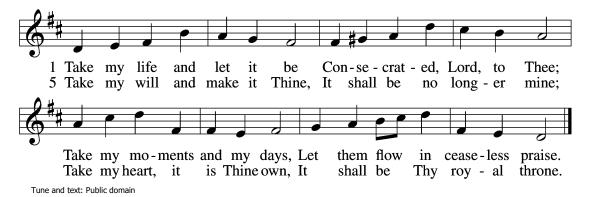
#### **OFFERING**

"Alleluia Sing to Jesus" by Sandra Eithun

Zion Handbell Choir

#### **OFFERTORY**

"Take My Life and Let It Be" v.1,5 LSB 783



+ PRAYER +

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

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.

KYRIE Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord, we are too easily captive to fear and the shadow of death. Break through the closed doors of our hearts and shine Your light into our darkness, that knowing the forgiveness of our sins, we may no longer be bound by any anxiety or afflicted by any doubt; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### **G** Amen.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### **COLLECT FOR GRACE**

L O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

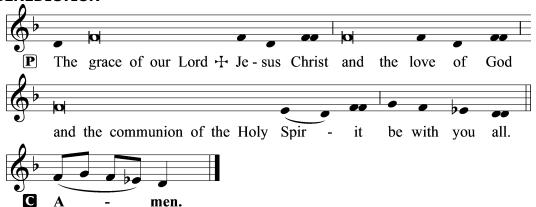


#### **BENEDICAMUS**





#### **BENEDICTION**





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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### Offerings

You can contribute offerings using three main methods:

**Online donations:** You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at <a href="www.zionelpaso.org">www.zionelpaso.org</a>. We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofits. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

**Mail donations:** Mail your check to the Zion church office at 2808 Pershing Drive, El Paso, TX 79903. The mail is checked every day.

**Donations via an app:** If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Give Plus app. You can easily set up an account and donation through the app.

Your offerings and support are crucial to our congregation and we are very grateful for your support!

Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God by Deborah Livingston in memory of her parents, Connie and David Livingston.

**Pastor Richard Schlak will join us at Zion** for the next two Sundays, **April 18**<sup>th</sup> **and April 25**<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Schlak will lead our worship services and Sunday Bible studies while Pastor Stephen is away on vacation. Our office hours will remain the same during this time and are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-3:00pm.

**Altar Flower Sign-Up.** Now is the time to reserve your special Sundays to donate altar flowers! You can add your name to the calendar at the back of the sanctuary, or you can call or email the church office and we will add it for you! Consider recognizing an anniversary, birthday, or other special event, or just thank God for his many blessings! An altar bouquet costs \$20. You may donate either one or two arrangements. You can pay for the flowers closer to the time you have requested. We will check with you about any special dedications before the bulletin is printed that week. After the service, you are welcome to take the flowers home! If you wish, we will see that they are given to someone who could use a little love and know that we are thinking about them.



"Bagging Beans and Rice" Service Project to Assist YLM with their weekly food distribution. Today, April 11th, after the Church Service, in the Auditorium: LWML invites you to join us ~ in participating in our annual "Beans and Rice Project" to assist YLM: filling sandwich-size Ziplock bags with dry beans and/or rice, which are part of the food distribution bags given out each Saturday to families in need. With the help of a Thrivent Action Grant, all the items needed for this project will be provided. The tables in the Auditorium will be spaced apart to meet Social Distancing requirements; we may also have stations set up on tables in the Fellowship Hall, too. (LWML Members are reminded to bring a one cup measuring cup, if possible; we will have many available to use.) We hope you will plan on joining us! Many hands make light work! See you next Sunday!

**YLM Gala.** The traditional YLM Gala was cancelled in 2020 and we won't be able to hold it safely in 2021 either. However, a fun and safe **virtual fundraiser is being planned for May 1-8**. The planning committee is seeking donations of new and vintage items for the event. Items need not be especially expensive or valuable. Something small, such as an antique glass cake plate, can be combined with a bakery gift card to create a popular item. A nice gift you just can't use, including restaurant and other gift cards, is perfect for our event.

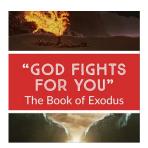
Because the event will be online, we'll be able to sell tickets and reach out to participants from across the country, where there are many YLM supporters. Have something to donate? Please contact Sharon Amastae at 915-203-1501 or samastae@yahoo.com.



### **Join Any Zion Bible Study from Home!**

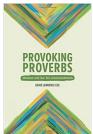
We are working to continue being a channel for the Holy Spirit through God's word, and to help keep our Zion family connected.

All are invited, please contact the Zion office for login information or questions. Never attended an online meeting? No problem! Call 915.566.4667 for assistance.









"Exodus" Bible Study - Sundays at 9:15am

Berea Bible Study - Every second and fourth Monday at 7:00pm

Eastside Bible Study - Tuesdays at 7:00pm

"Acts" Bible Study - Thursdays at 7:00pm

Women's Bible Study - Fridays at 10:00am

+ + +

#### **ZION STEWARDSHIP OF + TIME + TALENT + TREASURE**

**Preacher & Liturgist:** Pastor Stephen Heimer

Organist:
Elder:
Jim Smith
Acolyte:
Haley Nathan
Camera Operator:
Jaden Heimer
Sound Director:
Brenna Rodriguez
Offering Counter:
Sharon Amastae

#### **THIS WEEK AT ZION**

4/12	Monday	7:00 PM	Berea Bible Study
4/13	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Eastside Bible Study
4/15	Thursday	7:00 PM	"Acts" Bible Study
4/16	Friday	10:00 AM	Women's Bible Study
4/18	Sunday	9:15 AM	Bible Study with Pastor Schlak
		10:30 AM	Worship Service



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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