

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

9:00 am

Communion



*278 Years Of
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Sunday 3/14	8.00 am	Bell choir
	9:00 am	Worship
Monday	7:30 pm	AA Meeting
Tuesday	5:00 pm	Tai Kwan Do
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Lenten Bible study-(zoom)
Sunday 3/21	9:00 am	Worship

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Southeastern Pa. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Reverend Tina Mackie

Confidential email: pastor@zionofspringcity.org

Caroline J, Office manager

Shawn Rogers, Sexton

Jack Florio, Financial Secretary

Daniel L. Bauman, Cemetery Superintendent & Maintenance Manager

Lori Hoshaw, Music Director

Shawn Rogers, Christian Education Director

Amy Kirk, Parish Post / Social Media Editor

Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.

Church Telephone: 610-948-3323

e-mail: church@zionofspringcity.org

Facebook: ZionofSpringCity

Web site: www.zionofspringcity.org

Zion Lutheran Pre-School

Dawn Platchek, Director , Phone : 610-948-3440, e-mail: info@zionlutheranpreschool.com

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (3/14)

This week	
Paul Condrack	Assistant Minister
Beverly Tyson	Lay Reader
Shawn Rogers	Greeter
Maggie Munz	Greeter
Patti Mandik	Altar Guild
Joe and Diane Sakal	Hymns

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS (3/21)

Next week	
Diane Sakal	Assistant Minister
Michelle Favara	Lay Reader
Shawn Rogers	Greeter
Maggie Munz	Greeter
Kirk family	Altar Guild
tbd	Hymns

We thank you for your service to the church.

We will be celebrating Communion today. Please keep bread and wine ready.

Please be seated

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

R: A reading from the book of Numbers:

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R: The Word of the Lord.

P & A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 107:1-3, 17-22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

R: *Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever.*

A & P: Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe, gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

R: Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

A & P: They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door. Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord and you delivered them from their distress.

R: You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

R: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Those able, please stand

Gospel: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE by Pastor Tina Mackie

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You can add names to the prayer list by contacting the church office. After three weeks names will be removed from the prayer of intercession unless resubmitted. These people will still be in our private prayers.

A: On this fourth Sunday in Lent, let us pray to our loving God for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your mercy endures forever."

A: O God, preserve your church through good times and bad. Empower pastors, missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and all ministries of service for their work throughout this pandemic. Bless Lutherans around the world, our ecumenical partners, and everyone preparing for baptism at Easter.

O God our Redeemer, receive our prayers:

P: your mercy endures forever.

A: Continue your creation of this good earth. Nourish seas and rivers, and give water to thirsty lands. Nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures, and bless the fields being prepared for the growing season.

O God our Creator, receive our prayers:

P: your mercy endures forever.

A: In Brazil and wherever COVID-19 rages, send healing. In Myanmar and wherever tyranny rules, restore human rights. In Nigeria and wherever there is domestic terrorism, send concord. In Ethiopia and wherever there is bloodshed, bring peace. In Yemen and wherever people starve, give food and water. In the United States and wherever there is discrimination, inspire all residents to honor one another and to strive for justice. Prosper the work of those who care for victims of violence, and grant legislators wisdom in decision-making.

O God our Protector, receive our prayers:

P: your mercy endures forever.

A: Give rest and welcome to migrants. Bring runaways to places of safety. Protect all who are incarcerated. Provide caring families to children who seek adoption. Give a decent life to all who live on our streets.

O God our Homeland, receive our prayers:

P: your mercy endures forever.

A: As you saved your people of old from snakebite, so now deliver all who suffer from disaster, hunger, disease, and despair, and those we name here before you. . . Receive our prayers for **Fawn** Keenan and **Ralph** Finkbiner. Heal them with your loving might.

O God our Savior, receive our prayers:

A: your mercy endures forever.

P: Shine light into our darkness, make night into a blessing, and in mercy hear the prayers of our hearts:

Others for whom you may wish to pray: (names submitted by our members): Moriah Finkbiner, Roxanne Robinson and Christine Roleski.

O God our Friend, receive our prayers:

A: your mercy endures forever.

P: We praise you for all the saints who have lived and died in Christ, especially Patrick and Joseph, and we remember before you all who have died from COVID-19. At the end, bring us with them into life in your presence.

O God our Comforter, receive our prayers:

A: your mercy endures forever.

P: To you, O God, our only God, we entrust all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our loving Lord.

A: Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

A: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

OFFERING INVITATION

(Please be seated)

OFFERING with Special music

“Flee as a Bird”

Word adapted to Spanish Melody by Mary SB Dana Arranged by John F. Wilson -Sung by Joe and Diane Sakal

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen.

(Please stand)



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: 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. 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:

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

P: In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the crowning act of love, you gave your only Son that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin. Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor. Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.

A: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray,

A: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

A: Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

P: This is the Body of Christ given for you

A: I believe or Amen (Congregation will eat the wafer)

P: This is the Blood of Christ given for you

A: I believe or Amen (Congregation will drink the wine)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

A: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord's face shine on your with grace and mercy, the Lord look upon you and give you peace.

A: Amen

THE SENDING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#759 ELW



Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

P & A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" - Tattersall's Psalmody, Arr. by Richard Unfreid

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BULLETINS:

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Genesis 3:1-13	The Serpent in the garden
Isaiah 6:1-13	Isaiah meets fiery serpents (angels)
Matthew 10:5-25	Be as wise as serpents
Revelation 12:1-12	The woman and the dragon
I Corinthians 10:1-13	Do not put Christ to the test
Psalms 91	The Most High is my dwelling place