



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The Sunday of Jesus Rejected and Called Beelzebul

March 2, 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Third Sunday in Lent
March 2, 2024

Wenona, Illinois
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WELCOME to all who are worshiping with us. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book, including your home address and congregation. We welcome to our altar all those who share our confession of faith within the fellowship of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



THE OPENING HYMN:	"O Christ, You Walked the Road"	Hymn # 424
DIVINE SERVICE, Setting One		page 151
THE INVOCATION		pg. 151
THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION		pg. 151
THE INTROIT (see back of bulletin insert)	<i>Ps. 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: Ps. 25:15-16</i>	
THE KYRIE		pg. 152
<i>(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent.)</i>		
THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY		pg. 156
THE THEME HYMN:	"Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken"	Hymn # 521
THE OLD TESTAMENT READING		
THE EPISTLE		
<i>(The Alleluia is omitted during Lent.)</i>		
THE HOLY GOSPEL		
HYMN OF THE DAY:	"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"	Hymn # 435
THE SERMON:	(see sermon insert)	
THE NICENE CREED		pg. 158-159
THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH		
THE OFFERTORY:	"What Shall I Render to the Lord"	pg. 159
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THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION		
<i>("Thank the Lord" is omitted during Lent.)</i>		
THE COLLECT	(spoken by the Pastor)	pg. 166
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THE CLOSING HYMN:	"When I Behold Jesus Christ"	Hymn # 542



The offering plate is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for your continued contributions.

IN OUR PRAYERS, we remember Starr Barke, Kristin Bosteels, Vic Bosteels, Katie Jones, Rick Salz, Bill Simmons, Andy Volker, Cindy Volker, and Ken Welch.

THIS WEEK AT ZION AND ST. PAUL'S:

TODAY (SATURDAY)	Zion Sunday School	3:45PM
	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM
MONDAY	Zion Bible class	9:00AM
SATURDAY	Zion Sunday School	3:45PM
	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM

ATTENDANCE last week: 22 Holy Communion: 21 Offering: \$487
Sunday School: 8 Bible class: 6
Lent Midweek (2/28): 15 Offering: \$256
(Zion needs about \$1,157 in weekly offerings to cover expenses)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be getting lilies to adorn the church for Easter. If you wish to help by donating one or more, please sign up in the narthex. The cost is \$7 per plant; please pay Ladies Aid treasurer Jan Hoge. If you pay by check, make it payable to Zion Lutheran Church.

Please pick up a copy of the April-June issue of "Portals of Prayer," available in the narthex today.

Special Voters Meeting will be held after the service tonight to discuss a motion to pursue meetings with St. John's Lutheran in Washburn in the hope of forming a three-point parish with Rev. Mark Gruden as pastor. Please plan to stay after church to give your input and your vote.

Lent Midweek Service will be held again this Wednesday, March 6, at 12pm here at Zion.

Holy Week & Easter at Zion Here is the planned schedule of services for Holy Week:

2024 Theme: ***"To the Testimony!"*** (Isaiah 8:20)

3/28 Maundy Thursday: 12pm Divine Service *"To the Testimony of the Blood of the New Testament"*

3/29 Good Friday: 12pm Tenebrae Service *"To the Testimony of the Water of Baptism"*

3/30 Easter Saturday: 5pm Vigil and Festival Service *"To the Testimony of the Preaching of the Word"*

The Ladies Aid will hold a garage sale and food stand at Zion during the Wenona spring garage sales on May 3-4. If you have items that you could donate for the sale, please bring them to church any time after April 6.

Exodus 8:16-24

¹⁶[In those days:] The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" ¹⁷And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.

¹⁸The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. ¹⁹Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²²But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. ²³Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"

²⁴And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

Ephesians 5:1-9

¹[Brethren:] Be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an

idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Luke 11:14-28

¹⁴[At that time:] Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled.

¹⁵But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

²⁴"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

²⁷As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

SERMON ON LUKE 11:14-28



“STRONGER”

Sermon Outline

1. The Problem: Satan and his demonic horde.
 - a. *“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe...”*
2. The Answer: Jesus the Stronger Man and His Nike (victory)
 - a. *“But when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.”*
3. The Warning: No neutral ground.
 - a. *“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”*
4. The Prescription: Fully Armed and Guarded!
 - a. *“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”*



INTROIT - Ps. 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: Ps. 25:15-16

Antiphon

- P** *My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.*
- P** To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
- C** **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**
- P** The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- C** **Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.**
- P** Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Antiphon

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT

of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*“Change and decay in all around I see”
(LSB 878:4).*

Plants which died in the fall decay rapidly in spring. Human beings can die at any time of year, followed by our own decay. The ethical decay around us “stinks to high heaven.” Our sinful nature is so decayed that “I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want, that I do” (Rom. 7:8).

But God provides the antidote to decay. Psalm 16:10 expresses our Christian hope: “You will not leave my soul for sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay.” St. Paul (following St. Peter’s Pentecost sermon) explained this: “David, after assisting with the plan of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was added to his fathers and saw decay. But He whom God raised [Jesus Christ] did not see decay. So, it should be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is announced to you; and from all things from which you could not be justified in the law of Moses, in Him everyone who believes is justified” (Acts 13:36-39).

The sinless Son of God “died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3) “and was raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25), so that “everyone who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28). “Oh, Thou who changest not, abide with me!”

Rev Mark Eddy – CID Board of Directors- 1st Vice President and Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois

Pray For Our Central Illinois District Missions supported by your church’s Mission Dollars to the District. “Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored.” Please remember in your prayers Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in East Moline, and Pastor Pablo Dominguez, where the ministry is conducted almost entirely in Spanish.

Items of Interest to Share

Dollar for Missions (DFM) Update: After two months of 2024, CID has completed its first two DFM projects this year: 1) mileage money to support Pastor David Dunlop’s Prison Ministry visits to Lincoln, Illinois every week (\$1,800) and 2) funding for St. John, Beardstown to purchase a few Spanish language hymnals (\$300). The current DFM project is for \$2,100 to provide Pastor Pablo Dominguez of Cristo Rey, East Moline honoraria as he conducts Spanish languages services and Bible classes in Beardstown twice a month for the second half of this year. Thanks to all CID churches participating in DFM! For more, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>

The latest CID GatePost issue, released at the beginning of Lent, contains important information about decline in the District's capacity to continue supporting missions here and through the national Synod. Every CID congregation is receiving a letter from the District President, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary on this important subject. Watch for it! (see News and Event Tab on CIDLCMS.org website or see <https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf> Also,

Every-weekday Lenten Services continue at Trinity, Springfield (across the street from the state capitol) through Good Friday, 12:15-12:40 p.m. Short sermons are on "The Life of All the Living – Jesus," telling the story of Christ winning salvation for us, with applications to life today. If you know people who work in downtown Springfield or have other reasons to go there, please suggest that they attend – and bring friends!

Illinois March for Life: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the state capitol building) will host a Matins service in the morning, before the rally and march, and a light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. This year, parking will be available to you downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible.

2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music Scholarships July 9-12, 2024

Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, 35 full scholarships (early bird registration fee) are available for church musicians. For more information on the conference and application, see the CID website News and Events tab or visit the following link;
<https://www.cidlcms.org/resources/gatepost/2024.GatePost.1.pdf>

2024 Central Illinois District Youth Bible Bowl: "The Gospel according to St. John." In the best way you know how, study the Gospel according to St. John with your young people so they get to know better the only true God, and Jesus Christ. The CID Bible Bowl is planned for Sunday, April 14 at Camp CILCA. Circuit Bible Bowls may be held in March. If you would like more information, you may contact Pastor Mark Eddy at Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois (zionlcms@juno.com) or 309-795-1063.

National Youth Gathering – Summer 2025 – New Orleans

Plans are already underway to bring your youth and adults a fantastic experience. The theme for this upcoming Gathering is Endure, based on Hebrews 12:1-3.

Jonathan Guse is the DCE from Bethel Morton, and Christy Malinowski is the DCE from Trinity Bloomington, and they will be the District Coordinators for CID! Both have had many years experience in not only leading a group, but each has also had experience as District Coordinators!

We wanted to make sure you are connected to the LCMS Youth Gathering website: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com>. There you can find information, FAQ, resources, zoom link sign-up for monthly meetings, and more.