



PRELUDE

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

### GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love. Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

**Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "Give To Our God Immortal Praise!"

ELW#848

1. Give to our God immortal praise!  
Mercy and truth are all his ways.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

2. God sent his Son with pow'r to save  
from guilt and darkness and the grave.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

3. Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
the King of kings with glory crown.  
His mercies ever shall endure  
when lords and kings are known no more!

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 (*Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy"*) Red Hymnal pg. 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

# SONG OF PRAISE “Lord God, We Praise You”

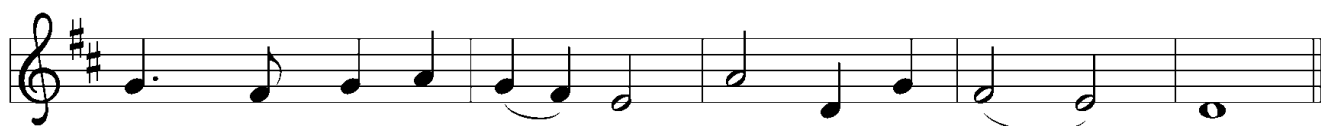
ELW #558



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and  
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer  
weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.  
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.  
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, 540–604; tr. composite  
Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of God gives us shelter.

**Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,

<sup>10</sup> **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.

<sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

<sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

<sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; will rescue and <sup>l</sup> honor them.

<sup>16</sup> **With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Word of God gives us shelter.

**Thanks be to God.**



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, 'He will

command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG "On Eagles Wings" Red Hymnal #787

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain: And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. Refrain
3. You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. Refrain
4. For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## MUSIC & OFFERING



Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at [www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com) or you can click on the QR code.

## TABLE BLESSING “This is Christ’s Body”

ACS #967



This is Christ’s bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with



mer-cy and love. We are Christ’s bod - y,



bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.



## THE MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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

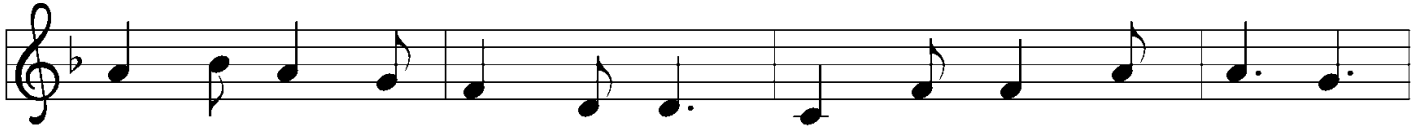
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.*

*The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.*

*There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.*

COMMUNION SONG "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross" ELW#335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

# "Under His Wings"

**B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$ <sup>o7</sup>**   **B $\flat$**    **G $\flat$ m**   **B $\flat$**    **F**   **F $\flat$**    **F**   **B $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**

1. Un - der His wings I am safe - ly a - bid - ing. Tho' the night  
 2. Un - der His wings what a ref - uge in sor - row! How the heart  
 3. Un - der His wings O what pre - cious en - joy - ment! There will I

**F $\flat$**    **D $\flat$ m**   **F**   **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$ <sup>o7</sup>**   **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**

deep - ens and temp - ests are wild, Still I can trust Him; I  
 yearn - ing ly turns to His rest! Of - ten when earth has no  
 hide till life's tri - als are o'er; Shel - teres, pro - tect - ed, no

**E $\flat$ 6**   **E $\flat$**    **E $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **E $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **E $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**

know He will keep me. He has re - deemed me, and I am His child.  
 balm for my heal - ing, There I find com - fort, and there I am blessed.  
 e - vil can harm me. Rest - ing in Je - sus, I'm safe ev - er more.

**B $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **E $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**

Refrain

Un - der His wings; un - der His wings; Who from His love can sev - er? Un - der His

**B $\flat$ m7**   **C $\flat$ m**   **E $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **E $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**    **F $\flat$**    **B $\flat$**

wings my soul shall a - bide, Safe - ly a - bide for - ev - er.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone. I've been set free,  
My God my Savior has ransomed me.

And like a flood His mercy reigns, Unending love, amazing grace.

3. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures. (Chorus)
4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

SENDING

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

# 2025 Midtown Midweek Lenten at Noon

## Turning Toward God's Abundance

EXERCISE CLASS BEFORE AT 11:00AM LED BY FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES  
SIMPLE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP

March 12 at Zion Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Chuck Olson

March 19 at Salem Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Vicar Leslie Aska

March 26 at Calvary/Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Frank Langhoff

April 2 at First Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Student Pastor Rachel Perkins

April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Noon  
Preacher: Pastor Bill Dahlberg  
(No exercise class today)





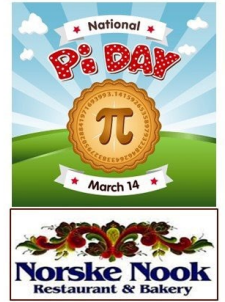
*AROUND THE TABLES*  
**Burmese Ministry Update**  
 Pastor Uk  
 March 9, 2025 at 10:15am

HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
 Sponsored by Zion's Multicultural Committee  
 Held at Zion Lutheran Church  
 925 Fifth Avenue  
 Rockford, IL 61104



# Pi-Day Pies

**March 13-14, 2024**  
**Pickup at Katie's Cup**  
**Norske Nook Pies at Katie's Cup**



Visit Facebook or <https://www.katiescup.com> to order online.  
 Stop into Katie's Cup, 502 7th Street, for a cup of coffee and order in person.  
*All proceeds help support the mission of Katie's Cup.*



## "Bahai Faith: History and Beliefs"

*Presented by*  
**Dick & Ann Rundall**

*Members of the Bahai Center of Rockford, IL*

BAHAI FAITH



**March 16, 2025 at 10:15am**



## Conversation about Immigration

*Presented by Yenny Munoz-Swaninger*  
 Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

**March 23, 2025 at 10:30am**

Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104



## Bunco

Women of Zion

**March 20, 2025**  
**at 1:00pm**  
**at Zion**



# ALABAMA STORY

ARTIST ENSEMBLE THEATER

BASED ON A TRUE STORY OF A 1959 CENSORSHIP OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK IN THE JIM CROW SOUTH



**APRIL 6, 2025**  
**2:00PM**

TICKETS: \$22 FOR ADULTS &  
 \$4 FOR STUDENTS



HELD AT ROCKFORD UNIVERSITY  
 THIS TRIP IS SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - 815.964.4609 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



**April 6, 2025**  
**at 10:30am**  
**at Zion**

**Jeanette Towns**  
**Speaker**

## PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

**\$10 Adults \$8 Children (under 12)**  
**Sunday, April 13 at 10:30AM-1:00pm**

Sponsored by the Multicultural Team of Zion Lutheran Church  
 Held at Zion Lutheran Church  
 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104  
 Proceeds benefit the Bahai Temple Trip Scholarships

# BAHAI TEMPLE TRIP

INTERFAITH EXPERIENCE TO WILMETTE, IL



**MAY 31, 2025**  
**8:00AM-4:00PM**  
 TICKETS: \$50 FOR ADULTS &  
 \$20 FOR STUDENTS  
 (PAYS FOR BUS & LUNCH)

SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MULTICULTURAL COMMITTEE  
 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104 - WWW.ZIONROCKFORD.COM



### PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones: Family of Bob Campbell (Memorial Service 3-29-25 at 1pm)
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeannie Thomas, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

### PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	First Sunday in Lent
	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose room
Tuesday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:30am	RSV Class—Marander Room
Saturday	9:00am	Spring Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Eighth Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Forum: Baha'i Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall
	10:30am	Fellowship In Honor of Pastor Jerry Peterson's Birthday

### UPCOMING

March 22	8:30am	CRE—Sauk Valley Community College
March 25	5:00pm	Human Resources—Multipurpose Room
	6:00pm	Church Council—Multipurpose Room
March 23	10:30am	Know Your Rights presenter Yenny Munoz-Swaninger
April 6	10:30am	Forum: NAMI presenter Jeanette Towns
April 13	10:30am	Palm Sunday Breakfast (tickets available from Multicultural)
April 17	Noon	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 18	Noon	Good Friday Swedish Service
	7:00pm	Good Friday Music Tenebrae
April 20	9:15am	Easter Sunday Worship

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\* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>