

Zion Lutheran Church

Compline

Lenten Midweek 3

Welcome

Before Service Prayer

*O Lord, who hast
mercy upon all, take
away from me my
sins, and mercifully
kindle in me the fire
of thy Holy Spirit.
Take away from me
the heart of stone,
and give me a heart
of flesh, a heart to
love and adore Thee,
a heart to delight in
Thee, to follow and
enjoy Thee, for
Christ's sake, Amen.*

Penitential Prayer of St.
Ambrose of Milan

How do we connect this to Paul's teaching about "discerning the body" in 1 Corinthians? Luther writes that "faith in the heart... discerns this treasure and desires it." We both discern what the gift is - the body and blood of Jesus - and we desire the benefit: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

If worthiness depended on goodness and purity, "you would never approach." We come to the Supper not because we are godly, but because we desire to be godly. Our unworthiness, in fact, makes us fit for the Supper. "We go because we are poor, miserable people. We go exactly because we are unworthy."

With His body and blood, the Lord promises the forgiveness of sins. If we imagine that we don't have sins that need forgiving, then neither do we need this gift. Only the sick need a doctor, and only sinners need the Sacrament.

Bryan Wolfmueller

*Luther's Large Catechism with Annotations and
Contemporary Applications, pg. 943-44 (Kindle)*

March 15, 2023 ✠ 7:00 P.M.

Welcome to Today's Divine Service

We are very happy that you are here today!

At Zion, the bulletin and Lutheran Service Book (LSB) are both used to lead us through our worship. To help guide you during the service, below are some helpful tips.

- For each section of the Divine Service, the page number in the hymnal is listed in the bulletin on the right side of the page, i.e., *LSB 184*, which is found towards the front of the hymnal. All responses are sung unless they are printed in the bulletin.
- **P** indicates sections spoken by the Pastor. **C** indicates responses by the Congregation and will be in **bold print**.
- All hymns are listed in the bulletin with the name of the hymn and page number, i.e., *Thy Strong Word LSB 578*. They are also shown on the Hymn board at the front of the church.
- The *bold text* in both the bulletin and the hymnal shows when the congregation should stand or sit during the Divine Service. The Pastor may also provide direction.

A Special Welcome to Those with Young Children

At Zion we want families with children to feel at home.

- First, please relax and enjoy your time here. Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Zion.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please dare to sit toward the front where your children can easily see the front of the Church, note the colors, watch the pastor, wonder about the stained-glass windows above the altar and embrace the action at the altar. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.
- As we go, softly explain the Liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: Amen! Lord have mercy! And with thy Spirit! I believe! Our Father! All of that belongs to them too.
- Be sure to sing and say and pray your parts too as you stand and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.
- If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. We want you and your children here very much.
- If you need a little help, just ask. There are lots of folks here who will lend you a hand.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Luke 18:16).

We know that your children are a gift to the Church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help and bless you all. Welcome to Zion!



The congregation assembles in silence.

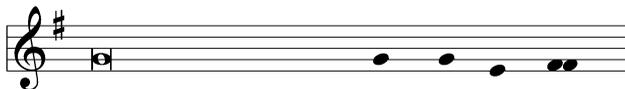
Kneel/Stand



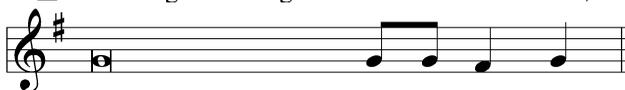
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



C A - men.



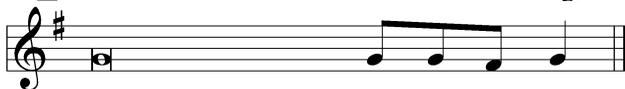
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



L to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

- C** I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.
- P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.
- C** Amen.

Sit

Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar

- P** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”
- P** Who receives this sacrament worthily?
- C** Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.

Reading

1 Corinthians 10:6-22

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your

ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? ¹⁹What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

LSB 255



L In - to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.

C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Hymn of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray LSB 623

Sermon

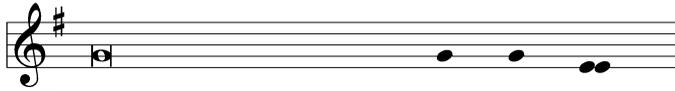
The "How" and "Who" of the Lord's Supper

Kneel/Stand

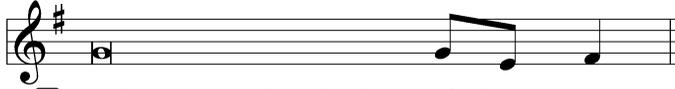
Prayer

L Hear my prayer, O Lord;

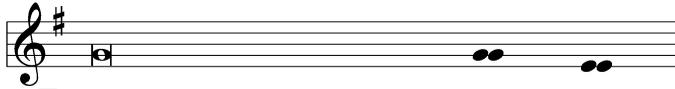
C listen to my cry.



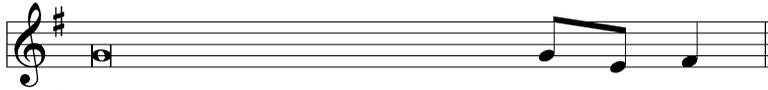
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.



L In righteousness I shall see You;



C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

One or more of the following are prayed.

- P** Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- P** Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours

of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- P** Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 257

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

- C** 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.

Stand

Antiphon

L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

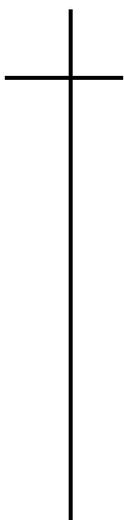
C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared
in the sight of ev - ry peo - ple: a light to reveal You to the na - tions
and the glory of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the
Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -
ev - er. A - men. *Antiphon* Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,

and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may
 watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction

LSB 259

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the † Son,
 and the Holy Spir - it, bless us and keep us.
C A - men.



But behold, in this holy supper, more than a paradise; for here the soul of the creature is spiritually fed with the flesh of his almighty Creator. The conscience is cleansed from all its guilty stains in the blood of the Son of God. The members of Christ, their spiritual head, are nourished with His own body; the believing soul feasts itself at a divine and heavenly banquet. The holy flesh of God, which the angelic hosts adore in the unity of the divine nature, before which archangels bow in lowly reverence, and before which the principalities and powers of heaven tremble and stand in awe, is become the spiritual nourishment of our souls. Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad (Ps. 96:11), but still more let the believing soul exult and sing for joy, to whom God gives such an unspeakable gift!

Johann Gerhard, *Sacred Meditations*, p. 106-107

Acknowledgments

Compline from Lutheran Service Book

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Zion Lutheran Church

**93 Augsburg Rd
London, AR 72847
PO Box 327
Dover, AR 72837
479-331-3277**

The Reverend Joshua Ralston
Pastor

Andrew Ward
Congregational President

Jeff Schlittenhart
Head Elder

Diane Ragsdale
LWML President

John Kuretsch
Treasurer

Phyllis Campbell
Office Assistant

Email: rev.jralston@gmail.com

Website: zionaugsburg.org

Facebook: facebook.com/
AugsburgZionLutheranChurch

**If calling for a Pastoral Emergency,
contact Pastor Ralston directly:**

Cell.....501-454-0581

Church.....479-331-3277

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary and in the basement Fellowship Hall. Please see an usher if you need assistance.

Nursery

The Nursery is located in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary.

Congregational Membership

New members are received by Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer, or Profession of Faith (after receiving Pastoral instruction). Please speak with Pastor Ralston for more details.

Pastoral Consultation

Pastoral Consultation based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. Please speak with Pastor Ralston to make an appointment.

Sick and Homebound

The sick and homebound are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact Pastor Ralston if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

Pastor's Bible Study, Teen, and Children's Sunday School

Sunday School begins at 9:00 am. Anyone from confirmation age on up is welcome to attend Adult Bible Study. Teen and Children's Sunday School is held **every Sunday** in the basement Fellowship Hall/Family Center (Ages 0 and up).

Listen to Lutheran Radio

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