\

Following Jesus means dying to yourself and living in Him: “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me” (Mark 8:34). Following Jesus leads to persecution (Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:20). Being a disciple of Jesus is an adventure that stretches our natural comfort zones (Matthew 14:13-21; 17:1-8).

This turns modern conceptions of happiness upside down. “The happy life” in our world is often depicted as a life of personal and spiritual freedom in which one is able to pursue whatever one wants: charting your own course, chasing down your dreams, and taking hold of whatever seems good to you. Happiness is understood as never having to go without, never having to suffer pain or discomfort; happiness is never having to do something you don’t want to do. ***Real happiness, as Jesus describes it, is totally different.*** It is about dying to ourselves and receiving new life in Christ Jesus. It is obedience to God’s will, no matter what it costs us, not obedience to our inner passions and desires. It is dependence on Him in all things and for all things, not independence and autonomy to pursue whatever we want. Eternally sustainable and truly authentic happiness can only occur under the reign and rule of God.

Being happy, at least as it is depicted in Scripture, is not something that we get to grab for ourselves. Nor is happiness something that we get to personally define or determine. ***Biblical happiness is defined by God, given by God, and sustained by God.*** Happiness is not something to pursue; happiness is something God provides.

**Trevor Sutton**, *Clearly*

*Christian*, p. 115-116

**April 14, 2024 T 10:00 AM**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**The Divine Service**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Welcome**

A drawing of a person with a beard

Description automatically generated

**March 10, 2024 T 10:00 AM**

**T Life Together T**

**The Prayers of the Church**

*Persecuted Christians:*

Sudan, Eritrea, Yemen, Iran, India

*Partner Church:*

Lutheran Church in the Philippines

*Comfort, Health, and Recovery:*

Betty Lynch Elizabeth Sharp John Auston

DeeAnna Gallagher Rick Shott Jan Hodgson

Kim Schrock Robert Standridge Mildred Greathouse

*Homebound:*

Betty Bocksnick, Glenda Schrock, Gwen Hale, Ray Roth

**The Fruits of Our Faith – 04/14/2024**

Worship Attendance: 65 Offering: $ 545.00

Adult Sunday School: 13 Fall Fest: $ 400.00

High School: 2 Youth Group: $ 80.00

Children: 5 Food Pantry: $ 310.00

Ringhardt League: $ 1,000.00

**No Congregational Meeting Today After Service**

There will be no special Congregational Meeting after service today. It will be rescheduled for a different date once more information is gathered. Thank you for your patience!

**Spring Clean Up!**

Come help give the church and grounds a good spring-cleaning Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 AM to Noon! Contact Rusty Dorn for details.

**Cemetery Service**

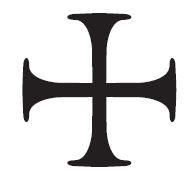
The annual cemetery service will be held Sunday, May 5th at the church pavilion. A potluck will follow in the fellowship hall.

**Christian Clinic Meal**

Mark your calendar! Thursday, May 16th, Zion is providing the meal for the River Valley Christian clinic workers. Details will be announced soon!

**2024 VBS**

This year’s VBS will be August 5 – 9th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. The theme is “Celebrate the Savior”. The Board of Education will be recruiting workers in the next few weeks. If you would like to help, please let a board member know!



Zion

**Lutheran Church**

93 Augsburg Rd

London, AR 72847

PO Box 327

Dover, AR 72837

479-331-3277

**T Soli Deo Gloria T**

**Pastor**

Rev. Joshua Ralston

**Altar Guild**

Pattie & Zoie Ward

Kathryn Higgs

**Organist**

Susan Colles

**Acolyte**

Bree Kuretsch

**Trustee**

Tony Waldo

**Elder**

Brian Cotner

**Ushers**

Tony Waldo, Dave Boswell,

Don Paul Choate, Greg Kremers

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

*Cell…………­­­...……..501-454-0581*

*Church……..…..........479-331-3277*

**Divine Service III**

*LSB 184*

**The Preparation**

**Processional Hymn** *#725*

**Invocation**

**Confession & Absolution** *p.184*

**Service of the Word**

***Introit***

**Kyrie** *p.186*

**This is the Feast***p.155*

**Salutation and *Collect*** *p.189*

***Old Testament Reading*** *p.190*

***Gradual***

***Epistle Reading*** *p.190* **Alleluia** *p.190*

***Holy Gospel Reading*** *p.190*

**Nicene Creed** *p.191*

**Hymn of the Day** *# 709*

**Sermon**

**Offertory** *p. 192*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface** *p. 194*

**Sanctus** *p. 195*

**Lord’s Prayer** *p. 196*

**The Words of Our Lord** *p. 197*

**Agnus Dei** *p. 198*

**Distribution Hymns**

(*#619, 629, 809)*

**Nunc Dimittis** *p. 199*

**Thanksgiving** *p. 200*

**Post-Communion Collect** *p. 201*

**Salutation & Benedicamus**

**Benediction** *p. 201*

**Recessional Hymn** *#666*

**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.** Below are some helpful tips:

The starting page number in the hymnal is listed in the bulletin on the top of the tab, i.e., *LSB 184,* which is found towards the front of the hymnal. 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 italic text*** on the tab of the bulletin shows when the service continues with the information on the page to the right.

**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.

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. 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). Children’s “Busy Bags” are located in the Narthex hallway for your convenience.

**T T T**

***We at Zion Lutheran Church of Augsburg believe and confess along with the Holy Scriptures, that this bread and wine in the Sacrament of Holy Communion are truly the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, instituted by Christ Himself, for us Christians to eat and drink. The gifts of His physical body and blood are given in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine at the altar.***  *Those who are communicant members of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation are welcome to commune at this altar with us. Other guests wishing to join our confession and receive this Holy Sacrament are invited to meet with the Pastor for Catechesis before communing. Anyone not communing may still come forward, crossing their arms at the rail, to receive a blessing from the Pastor.*

**Introit**

*Psalm 66:3, 5, 8–9; antiphon: vv. 1–2*

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | luia.\*  
 Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | luia.  
C **Say to God, “How awesome | are your deeds!\*  
 So great is your power that your enemies come cringing | to you.”**P Come and see what | God has done:\*  
 he is awesome in his deeds toward the chil- | dren of man.  
C **Bless our God, O | peoples;\*  
 let the sound of his | praise be heard,**P who has kept our soul among the | living\*  
 and has not let our | feet slip.  
C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**\*  
 **and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
 **as it was in the be- | ginning,**\*  
 **is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**  
P Shout for joy to God, all the earth. Alle- | luia.\*  
 Sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Alle- | luia.

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ’s Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Gradual**

P Christ has risen from the dead.  
 [God the Father] has crowned him with glory and honor.  
 C **He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;  
 he has put all things under his feet.**

Readings for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Old Testament - *Isaiah 40:25-31*

Epistle - 1 Peter 2:11-20

Holy Gospel - John 16:16-22