

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org
12:10pm WOW (Worship On Wednesday) Service – March 13, 2024
Lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall

MIDWEEK OF LENT 4

BREAD OF LIFE

AS WE GATHER

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**
P But He was wounded for our transgressions;
C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**
P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:
C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**
P Our souls are hungry and in need. We waste away without Your daily bread in our lives.
C **Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—**
P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true bread from heaven who satisfies the hunger of our souls. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith.

C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 16:2–5, 11–18

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the sixteenth chapter.

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” . . .

¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 19:7–10, 14

P The law of the LORD is perfect,
C **reviving the soul;**
P the testimony of the LORD is sure,
C **making wise the simple;**
P the precepts of the LORD are right,
C **rejoicing the heart;**
P the commandment of the LORD is pure,
C **enlightening the eyes;**
P the fear of the LORD is clean,
C **enduring forever;**
P the just decrees of the LORD are true,
C **and righteous altogether.**
P More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
C **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**
P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
C **be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

**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.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 15–17

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the tenth chapter.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. . . .

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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Joel 2:13b

Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:32–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

OFFERING

PRAYER

P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**

P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus’ great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**

P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

C **Enable us to savor You as the true bread of life, trusting that You forgive us, renew us, satisfy us, and give our lives meaning.**

P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

C **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

Presiding Minister: Pastor Karin Pejack
Minister of Technology: Catherine Germann

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WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm

SPECIAL LENT – HOLY WEEK Worship & Prayer Series: “Promised Treasures”

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| February 21, Lent 1: | Salt: The Gift that Sweetens & Preserves |
| February 28, Lent 2: | Water Gives You Life |
| March 6, Lent 3: | Light Shining in the Darkness |
| March 13, Lent 4: | Bread of Life |
| March 20, Lent 5: | Palms & Victory |
| March 27, Holy Wednesday: | Oil of Joy & Gladness |
| March 28, Maundy Thursday: | Water & Blood |
| March 29, Good Friday: | The Old Rugged, Wooden Cross |
| April 4, 1 st Wednesday after Easter: | Welcome to the Promised Land of Milk & Honey |

Weekly Schedule

Sunday (Communion & Healing Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays and Festivals)

9:00am **Sunday School** (in-person only)
9:45am **Fellowship** (in-person only)
10:15am **Worship Service** (in-person & online)

Wednesday (Communion on the 1st Wednesday)

12:10pm **WOW, Worship On Wednesday** (in-person & online)
12:35pm **Lunch Fellowship** (in-person only)