

Zion Lutheran Church  
February 5, 2023



**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us in silence confess our failings and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

*Silence*

P: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to turning away from God in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others and the life of the world

**C: In the name of Jesus, God forgives you, Christ renews you,  
and the Spirit empowers you to grow in love.**

P: Amen.

**C: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to turning away from God in the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

**P: In the name of Jesus, God forgives you, Christ renews you,  
and the Spirit empowers you to grow in love.**

C: Amen.

**Gathering Hymn**      *Children of the Heavenly Father*      **ELW 781**

**Greeting**

**Hymn of Praise**      *Seek Ye First*      **WOV 783**

## Prayer of the Day

God of wisdom, you have encouraged us to live our lives grounded in faith, patience, and love. Help us to relate to others from a solid foundation of love, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Narrative Reading: Matthew 6:24-7:14; 24-29

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God<sup>1</sup> and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

**7** “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup> For the judgment you give will be the judgment you get, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup> Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye. <sup>6</sup> “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you. <sup>7</sup> “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> Is there anyone

among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup> “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets. <sup>13</sup> “Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. <sup>26</sup> And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

<sup>28</sup> Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

### **Children’s Sermon**

#### **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day**    *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

**ELW 597**

#### **Apostle’s 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 Intercession**

#### **Exchange of Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you all

**R: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with one another*

#### **Offering**

**Offertory***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***ELW 184****Offertory Prayer**

You tend to all our needs, generous God, that we might better serve you and our neighbors. We return now these gifts you have first given us, a sign of our trust in you. Use them for the sake of the world, in Jesus name.

**Amen.****Communion Liturgy***Setting 4***ELW pg. 152****Lord's Prayer****Communion****Post-Communion blessing****Benediction****Sending Hymn***How Firm a Foundation***ELW 796****Dismissal**

Go in peace to love God and your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.****Announcements**

**Confirmation and Wednesday school** this Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Next Adult Ed session**

- February 19 at 11:30 at Bethlehem – End of Life. Pastor Kris, Virg Unverferth, and Curtis Olson will present their perspectives and lead the conversation.

**Lent**

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22**. Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes will be at **6:30 at Bethlehem and 8:00 at Zion**. You are welcome to attend whichever service fits your schedule

The **first Lent midweek will be March 1 at 6 pm at Bethlehem**. The format will be a “dinner church” with a meal, scripture and prayers, some simple music, and a time of learning/discussion. The goal is to have it be something all ages can participate in.

