

# Zion Lutheran Church



Fifth Midweek Lent  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Welcome to worship!

Our study of the week of Jesus' life leading up to his crucifixion from the Gospel of Matthew continues as we take a look at Jesus' second longest sermon, Matthew 24-25. In this sermon, Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem and the salvation and judgment of the world. He paints powerful pictures with apocalyptic language and parables as he connects the destruction of Jerusalem to the Final Judgment, and the Final Judgment to the Day of Eschatological Salvation.

There's a lot going on in our text this evening, so we are going to have to be careful where we spend our time. They say if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; but if you teach him to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. This evening, it is my goal to teach you how to fish through the difficult text of Matthew 24-25. We will not cover everything; but I hope that, by the time we are done this evening, you will have the tools to make sense of this intriguing, chilling and comforting text.

Looking ahead to next week, we will have service on Wednesday (as we wrap-up our series, taking a look at the events leading up to the Last Supper), Thursday (as we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper), Friday (a Tenebrae Service), and Easter Sunday (where we celebrate the all-conquering resurrection of the Son of God). Please invite your family and friends, everyone you know who needs to hear the Good News! God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

*Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor*

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**ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.**

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

# Service of the Word

## *The Prelude*

## *Announcements*

*Opening Hymn:* Hymn Sing

## *The Invocation*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## *Confession and Absolution*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## *The Absolution*

## *The Prayers*

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

## The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 76

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.

His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.

There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

Selah

Glorious are you, more majestic than the mountains full of prey.

The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep; all the men of war were unable to use their hands.

At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned.

But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?

From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still, when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah

Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.

Make your vows to the Lord your God and perform them; let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared, who cuts off the spirit of princes, who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:1-14

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon Hymn:*** Go to Dark Gethsemane

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***Sermon***

***The Offering***

***The Lord's Prayer***

***Benediction***

**Pastor:** Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: Amen!**

***The Recessional:*** On My Heart Imprint Your Image

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**† *Service Participants* †**

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Bill Bishop & Peter Fisher
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Brian Pasquini, Dale Miller, Barb & Wayne Oechslein Ross Chilcott, Dan Harris, Vince Kimberland, Chuck LaJeunesse
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian Oelschlager

***The Postlude***