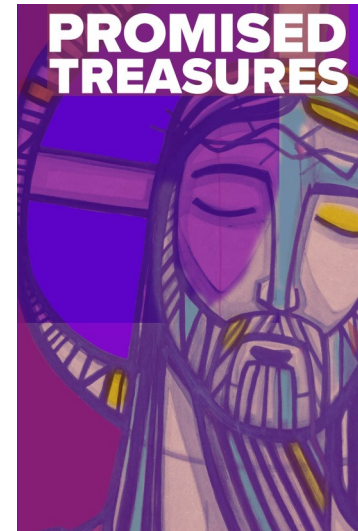


# Zion Lutheran Church



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
Afternoon Service

Lent -- Week 1

## SALT THAT SWEETENS AND PRESERVES

We are blessed to be God’s children—cleansed of sin, renewed by the Spirit, and salted in Christ Jesus. The promised treasures in God’s Word remind us of the importance of salt, which both sweetens and preserves things for our enjoyment. When Paul reminds us to let our conversations be “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6), and when Jesus tells us that we are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), the image is rich, for it is not only visual, but it also engages the sense of taste. We are reminded today that we are blessed to sweeten this world with the presence of Christ in us, even as Jesus Himself preserves our lives through His Word and Spirit.

“Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### DISTRIBUTION

*If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.*

### COLLECTS

**P**: O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C**: **And let my cry come to You.**

**P**: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C**: **Amen.**

**P**: Let us bless the Lord.

**C**: **Thanks be to God.**

**P**: The grace of our Lord  $\text{✝}$  Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C**: **Amen.**

**C** we return to you, O Lord.

**P** For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

**C** we return to you, O Lord.

**P** By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** 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.

**P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C** 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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

#### 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. 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** We confess that we have not lived our lives as we ought, forgetting that You have called us to be the salt of the earth.

**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, who “salts” us with His life-giving and life-preserving Word and with the sweetness of His forgiveness. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### FIRST READING -- 2 Kings 2:19–22

Now the men of the city said to Elisha, “Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful.” He said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, “Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it.” So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING -- Colossians 4:2-6

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### THIRD READING -- Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### RESPONSORY

**P**: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P**: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P**: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C**: **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

### SERMON

### KYRIE

**C**: **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love. For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus’ redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*], that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

**C** **we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,