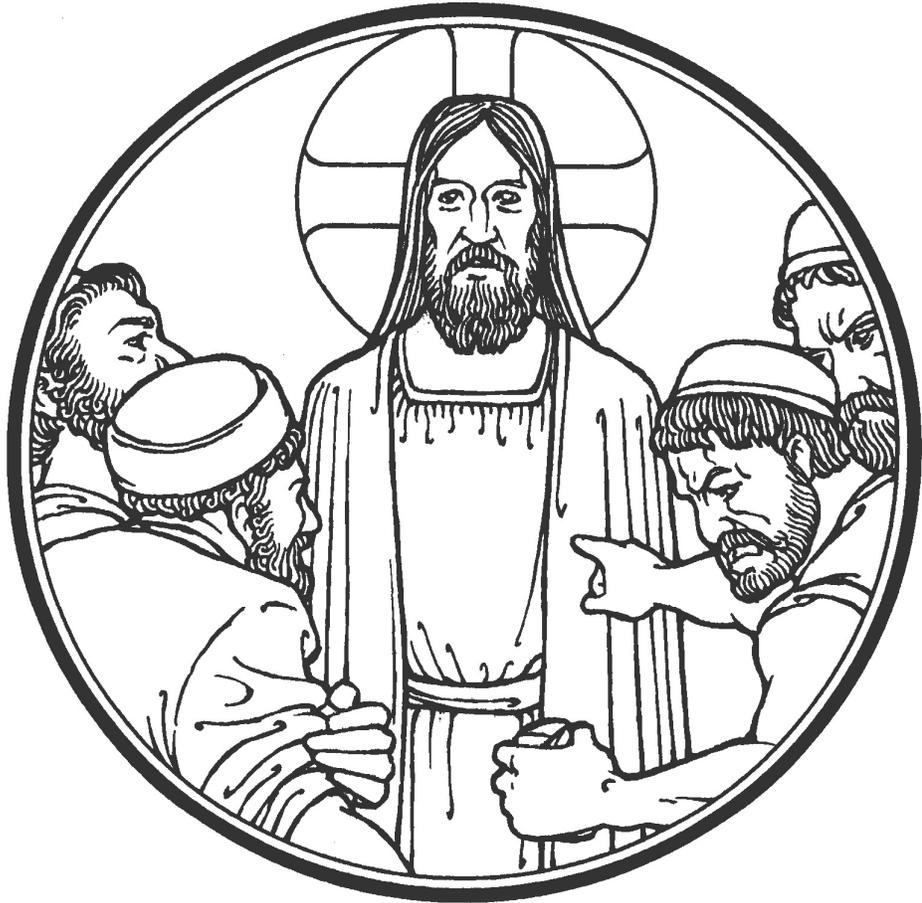
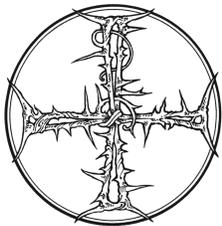


**A Prayer  
Upon Enter-  
ing Church**  
O Holy Je-  
sus, merci-  
ful and  
faithful high  
priest and  
captain of  
our salva-  
tion: fill our  
hearts and  
minds with  
the constant remem-  
brance of  
Your re-  
deeming  
love, for we  
make this  
prayer in  
Your pre-  
cious and  
most sacred  
name and  
by the bold-  
ness of Your  
Holy Spirit.  
Amen



---

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## The Fifth Sunday in Lent

*Judica* + March 26, 2023 + 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome to the Lord's Day.** What defense did Jesus have against those who accused Him of lying? In the end, He simply put His case in the hands of His Father and waited for Him to act. The opening words of Psalm 43, "Vindicate me, O God," were also His prayer as He trusted wholly and solely in God's power to prove His truth and worth. So lives the Christian believer. We rely, not on our own works or powers, but on God to work in us and through us to do all good things.

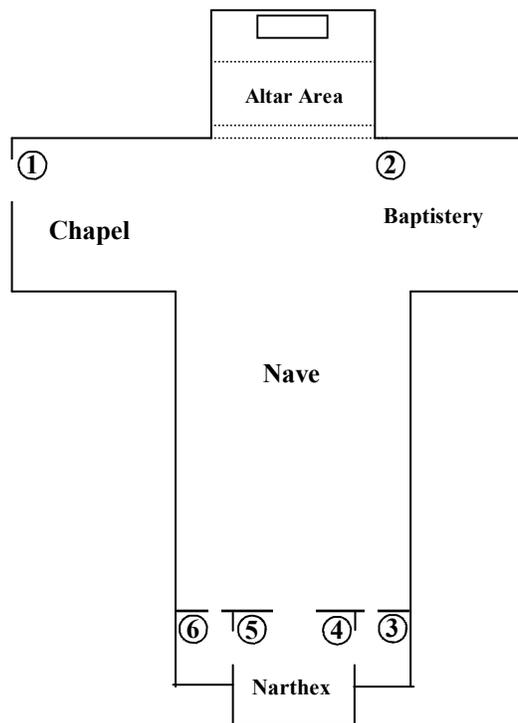
## Sharing God's Blessings Today

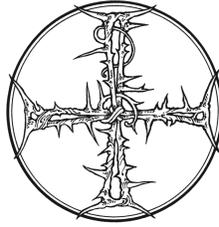
- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Dick & Dianne Ames in thanksgiving for many blessings received.
- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season.
- The sponsor charts for 2023 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

### To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in **Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church.** Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by **number (1-6)** or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





## PRELUDE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

... Allan Mahnke, Charles W. Ore, Jeffrey Blersch

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

*Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

## HYMN OF INVOCATION

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

... LSB #426

## INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Please kneel. Silence for reflection.*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*Forgiveness  
is the giving,  
and so the  
receiving, of  
life.*

*~ George  
Mac-  
Donald,  
1824-1905  
A.D.*

*On the Fifth Sunday in Lent, the Church enters the final stage of this season: Paschiontide, including both this week and Holy Week. During this time, the solemn nature of the Church's worship intensifies as we approach Good Friday. As a result, the typical conclusion to a psalm – "Glory be to the Father and to the Son," etc., is omitted until Easter. It's a further "stripping" of the Church's more joyful worship, even as our Lord was stripped for His suffering.*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

*Please stand.*

### INTROIT

L: Vindicate me, | O God,\*  
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

C: **from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!\***  
**For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.**

L: Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;\*  
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!

C: **Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,\***  
**and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.**

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?\*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation  
| and my God.

C: **Vindicate me, | O God,\***  
**and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,**

L: **from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!\***  
**For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.**

## KYRIE

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



*Jesus Christ is the first and true worshiper in spirit and in truth. He is the Head of the church, the Leader of the called. In Him all worship is in spirit and truth, for He is the God-ordained man to fulfill the Law on our behalf by dying the death without in any way mistrusting that God would raise Him from the dead. Jesus Christ perfects all worship in that He gives His life for the world . . .*

*[continued next page]*

[continued  
from previous  
page]

... His wor-  
ship is true,  
for He en-  
trusted Him-  
self to God,  
even in the  
death result-  
ing from  
God's curse.  
He offered  
Himself to  
God in the  
spirit and  
through Him  
God con-  
quered death  
for men. God  
thereby does  
His full work  
of holy love:  
He over-  
throws the  
kingdom of  
sin and death,  
and raises up  
new life that  
never dies ...

## COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, by Your great goodness merci-  
fully look upon Your people that we may be governed and pre-  
served evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your  
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 22:1-14

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. <sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I

know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”<sup>13</sup> And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.<sup>14</sup> So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY** *Psalm 43*

L: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause  
against an ungodly | people,\*  
from the deceitful and unjust man  
de- | liver me!

C: **For you are the God in whom I take refuge;  
why have you re- | jected me?\***  
**Why do I go about mourning  
because of the oppression of the | enemy?**

L: Send out your light and your truth;  
let them | lead me;\*  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your | dwelling!

C: **Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my ex- | ceeding joy,\*  
and I will praise you with the lyre,  
O | God, my God.**

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?\*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation | and my God.

*... He gives  
the Spirit that  
this life in  
man may be  
full and free.  
Jesus' altar  
for offering  
His self-  
oblation is the  
cross. His life  
is the sacrifice  
He offers, in  
shape and  
content of the  
church's wor-  
ship is union  
with Jesus  
Christ in His  
death and  
resurrection,  
effected by the  
Spirit  
through the  
High Priest's  
continuing  
intercession  
for the  
church.*

*~ Kenneth  
Korby, The  
Church at  
Worship,  
taken from  
"The Lively  
Function of  
the Gospel*

*This is the true offense of the cross-that God died for the sins of the world. True, there is life in the cross for us all, but that life begins with the death of Jesus. And Jesus is God. All the fullness of God was confined within His flesh. When Jesus died, God died. It's as simple as that and as profoundly mind-boggling as that. All complex theological argument and intellectual debate recede in the face of the cross. You don't argue your way to this truth . . .*

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 9:11-15

<sup>11</sup>When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. <sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

L: The Word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**VERSE**

**C** Christ hath hum - bled him - self, and be - come o - be - dient  
 un - to death: ev - en the death of the Cross.\_\_\_\_\_

**GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.  
**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup>Why do you not understand what I say? It is be-

cause you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup>You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup>But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup>Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup>Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." <sup>48</sup>The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" <sup>55</sup>But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*... Human wisdom will always consider this message foolishness and weakness. But the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength (1 Cor. 1:25). And so this foolish, weak cross of Jesus is the heart and center of the Christian faith. All other reality flows from it. In this dying world we have no other hope beside the cross of Christ and its message-the death of God for the life of the world.*  
 ~ Harold L. Senkbeil,  
*Dying to Live*

*Midst the evil of Pilate and the religious leaders, the support of the people and the weakness of the apostles, God was working good. "No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of myself." Each fist, for good. Each lash, good. Each nail, for my good. The ridicule, for good. The last breath, good . . .*

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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**

*Please be seated.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"My Song is Love Unknown"*

... LSB #430

### **SERMON**

*"Vindicate Me, O God"*

*Please kneel.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

**P:** . . . let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERTORY

"O Dearest Jesus"

... John A. Behnke

*Please stand.*

**Congregation:**

■ Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.

**C:** Amen

... The death, the greatest single act for good in the history of the universe. As law, the cross is curse, all curse! As Gospel, the cross is all blessing, all good. And it's the same cross!

~ Matthew Harrison,  
"Though God slay me, I will yet Hope in Him,"  
Mercy Works

*Feed Thy people, O Lord,  
with Thy grace, and  
deliver our souls from the  
death of sin;  
so that, being  
filled with  
Thy mercy,  
we may be  
united with  
the joys of the  
righteous,  
through Jesus  
Christ our  
Lord. Amen.  
~ Sarum  
Breviary,  
1000s A.D.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you  
and saying:

## SANCTUS ("Holy")



**C** Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

## ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

## AGNUS DEI (*"Lamb of God"*)



The elements of the Holy Communion become for us and all God's people that heavenly manna to sustain us in our exodus as we pass with Moses through the sea and with Jesus through His death into Canaan and the promised land of the resurrection, so that we are transformed and transfigured into the likeness of His glory.

~ Pr. David  
P. Scaer,  
In Christ

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

*Please be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION

*The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.*

*Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.*

*The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

"Dona Nobis Pacem"	... John A. Behnke
"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"	... LSB #437
"Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow"	... LSB #428
"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"	... LSB #611

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

**A Prayer  
Before You  
Go**

Renew my heart this day and every day, gracious Father, that I may see Your heart revealed in Jesus Christ, Your be-loved Son. Open my heart to those who have re-jected the Savior, that through my words and actions You might give them another chance to repent. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



**SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

"Toccata in A Minor"

... Jan Pieter Sweelinck

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**  
*To God alone be glory*

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

(Pr. Gjerde and Pr. Johnson to Bethany; Pr. Gulhaugen at Zion,  
11 AM)

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Musicians: The Zion Handbell Choir

Vocalists: Sarah Gjerde, Brennan Hochberger, Ethan Hochberger,  
Vicky Radunz, Carol Rich

Radio Announcer: Paul Beilke

Lector: Robert Hochberger

Acolyte: Ethan Hochberger

Communion Assistants: Sally Christoffersen, Rob Kittel,  
Keith Watson

Elder: Ken Rodemeier

Ushers: Janet Dettmering, Marty Dettmering, Andy Kieffer  
Leah Kieffer

Altar Guild: Pam Hoppe, Anna Mae Zeinemann

## **Acknowledgements**

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*"Christ hath humbled himself ...": Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB129062. All rights reserved.*





## **Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Office Manager** Jessica G. Ray  
**Custodian** Cody Augustine  
**Deployed Chaplain** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Pastor Emeritus** Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
click "Listen Live" at [www.wsau.com](http://www.wsau.com))

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