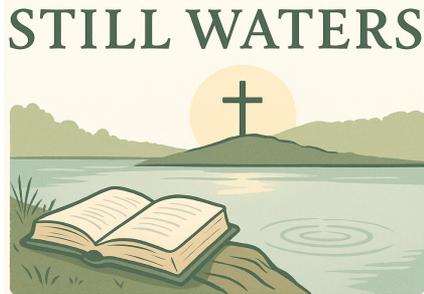


Still Waters Devotions for Lent

Daily devotions for
February 18 – April 11



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You are welcome here.

These devotions offer only a small glimpse of the peace and hope regularly proclaimed at Zion. Throughout Lent we will walk from ashes to resurrection light, and our prayer is that these words will strengthen your heart along the way. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to come and see. Gather with us. Hear the Word. Receive the gifts of Christ. By His grace, it may become one of the most meaningful and life-giving decisions you ever make.

In Christ our Lord, Pastor James

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Lent

A Beginning

Shrove Tuesday – Preparing the Heart

Suggested Reading: Psalm 103:1–14

Devotion Verse: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. *Psalm 103:10*

Title: Clearing the Cupboard

Shrove Tuesday has always been a day of preparation. Traditionally, it was a time to use up what was rich and sweet before the season of restraint began. At its heart though, this day was never only about food. It was about readiness.

Before Lent begins we pause and take stock. We look honestly at what fills our days and our hearts. Some things are good gifts. Others have quietly taken more space than they should. Shrove Tuesday gives us permission to name those things without guilt.

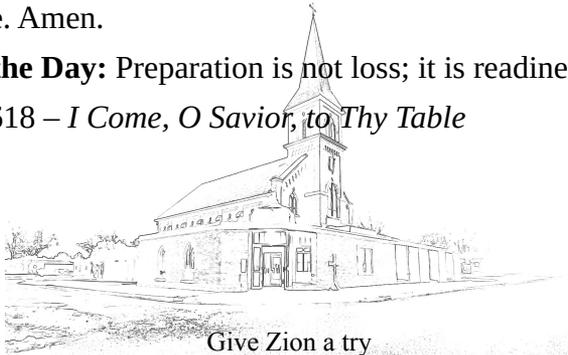
The psalm reminds us the Lord does not deal with us according to our sins. That truth encourages us. We are not clearing space in our lives to impress God. We are preparing to listen. Just as cupboards are emptied to make room for new stock, our lives are gently examined so God's mercy can be received again with gratitude.

This is a day for honest joy and gentle reflection. Enjoy the celebration. Give thanks. Then be ready to let go.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for Your generous mercy. As we prepare for Lent, give us wisdom to set aside what distracts and to treasure what truly gives life. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Preparation is not loss; it is readiness.

Hymn: LSB 618 – *I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table*



Ash Wednesday – Entering the Night

Suggested Reading: Psalm 6

Devotion Verse: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. *Psalm 6:2*

Title: From Dust, to Prayer

Ash Wednesday begins without celebration. It speaks plainly. We are dust and to dust we shall return. These words are not meant to frighten us. They tell the truth we often try to avoid.

Lent begins in the night. Not a night of abandonment, but a night of honesty. Psalm 6 gives us language for our weakness. The writer does not hide pain or fatigue from God. He brings it directly to Him.

Today many Christians will receive ashes as a confession and a prayer. We admit our limits. We acknowledge our sin. We also trust God meets us there. Lent is not about fixing ourselves. It is about placing ourselves before the Lord and waiting on Him.

This is the first song in the night. It is quiet. It is sincere. And it is heard.

Prayer: Merciful Father, teach us to repent without fear and to trust Your mercy without reservation. Meet us in our weakness and guide us through this season. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Repentance is not despair; it is coming home.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.1)



Give Zion a try

Thursday after Ash Wednesday – Learning to Pause

Suggested Reading: Lamentations 3:31–33

Devotion Verse: Though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love. *Lamentations 3:32*

Title: Held in Mercy

The day after Ash Wednesday often feels ordinary. The ashes are washed away. Life resumes its rhythm. Lent however, continues quietly.

This is where the discipline of Lent begins to take shape, not in dramatic gestures, but in small pauses. A moment of prayer. A moment of reflection. A decision to listen rather than react.

God's mercy runs deeper than our failures. Even restraint is given as a gift, shaping trust rather than fear. As we practice small acts of devotion, we are not earning God's attention or favor. Those are things we already have. Lent is taking the time to learn to rest in it.

Prayer: Lord, help us slow down and trust Your mercy as we walk this path of Lent. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's mercy holds in the quiet days and the not so quiet days..

Hymn: LSB 755 – *In the Very Midst of Life*



Give Zion a try

Friday after Ash Wednesday – Setting Things Aside

Suggested Reading: Isaiah 58:6–9

Devotion Verse: Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? *Isaiah 58:6*

Title: The Fast God Sees

Fasting is not about deprivation for its own sake. Scripture reminds us what we set aside should open space for more attentiveness to God's love and mercy.

When we loosen our grip on comforts, time, or habits, we learn again how dependent we really are on the God who loves and saves us. The goal is not self-denial as an achievement, but trust shaped through restraint.

God sees what is offered quietly. He meets His people not in displays of discipline, but in hearts turned toward Him.

Prayer: Lord, guide our restraint so it leads us closer to You and to be more attentive to our neighbor. Amen.

Thought for the Day: What we set aside can become space for grace.

Hymn: LSB 607 – *From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee*



Saturday after Ash Wednesday – Waiting Well

Suggested Reading: Psalm 130:5–6

Devotion Verse: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; *Psalm 130:5*

Title: Learning to Wait

The first days of Lent end not with resolution, but with waiting. That is fitting.

Faith does not always rush forward. Answers to prayers do not always come the way we want. Sometimes faith needs to wait quietly, trusting the Lord's promise. As we approach the First Sunday in Lent, we do so without hurry. The road is long, and God walks it with us.

Waiting is not wasted time. It is the very posture of trust.

Prayer: Lord, teach us to wait with hope and to trust Your Word as we head fully into this journey of Lent. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Waiting is an act of faith.

Hymn: LSB 516 – *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*



Lent 1

When God Feels Far Away

Sunday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Matthew 4:1–4

Devotion Verse: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness.
Matthew 4:1

Title: Led into the Wilderness

We like to assume God leads us toward comfort, clarity, and visible blessings. This week we learn the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Hunger followed. Silence followed. Temptation followed. The wilderness was not an accident or a punishment. It was training, and part of the way our Savior walked for us.

Our instinct is to measure God's care by how near He feels. When prayer feels empty or answers are delay, we quietly wonder whether God has stepped away. We want reassurance. We want relief before the training in the struggle has done its work.

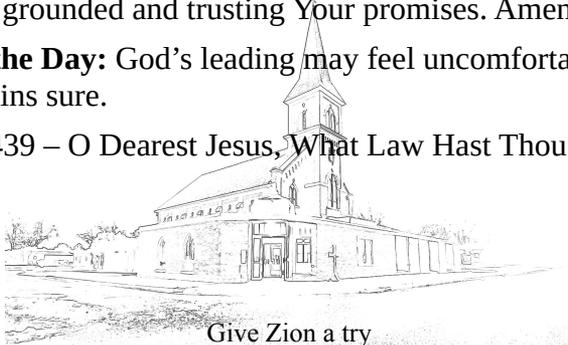
Jesus enters the wilderness willingly and remains faithful where we falter. He does not escape hunger or isolation, He carries them. Because He stands firm, we are not abandoned when faith feels feeble. God's nearness is grounded in Jesus' obedience, not in our feelings.

In Holy Baptism, we are joined to Jesus' death and resurrection. The wilderness does not cancel God's promise. It becomes the place where His faithfulness is revealed all the more.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when You lead us into places we would not choose to go, keep us grounded and trusting Your promises. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's leading may feel uncomfortable, but His presence remains sure.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.2)



Give Zion a try

Monday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 1:1–4

Devotion Verse: How long, O Lord, shall I cry for help? *Habakkuk 1:2*

Title: Crying Out in the Quiet

Habakkuk's prayer sounds familiar. He cries out, "How long?" We are sometimes confronted with the same ache. We pray. We wait. Silence stretches on. Doubt whispers that God may not be listening.

Habakkuk is not scolded for speaking honestly. God records his words for our sake. The problem is not the cry. The problem is what silence tempts us to believe, that God has withdrawn His care.

God's faithfulness does not depend on our perception. He is at work even when we cannot see this effect of His hand. Jesus prayed in silence, trusting the Father's will even when comfort was absent.

We learn to pray honestly while clinging to God's character. Faith speaks, waits, and trusts God remains faithful even when answers delay.

Prayer: Faithful God, hear our cries and teach us to trust Your mercy in the waiting. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Silence does not mean God has stopped listening.

Hymn: LSB 555 – Salvation unto Us Has Come



Tuesday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Matthew 4:5–7

Devotion Verse: You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

Matthew 4:7

Title : Tempted to Take Control

We often quickly reach for control when life feels uncertain. We want proof. We want certainty. We want God to act on our terms. Temptation grows stronger when faithful patience wears thin.

Jesus faces this pressure and refuses to seize control. He entrusts Himself fully to the Father’s Word. Where we often falter, Jesus remains faithful.

The Gospel comforts us with His obedience. Jesus resists temptation not to shame us, but to save us and show us the better way. His faithfulness covers our failures. His trust becomes our refuge. He is our Teacher, Example and Guide.

In the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to lead us “not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.” This prayer rests on Christ’s victory, not our strength.

Prayer: Lord, keep us trusting Your Word especially when control tempts us. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Trust grows when we rest in Christ’s faithfulness.

Hymn : LSB 566 – By Grace I’m Saved



Wednesday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Romans 10:8–13

Devotion Verse: The word is near you. *Romans 10:8*

Title: The Word Is Nearer Than We Feel

So easily we assume God’s nearness depends on our emotion or circumstance. When faith feels weak, we fear God is distant. God’s Word speaks differently.

God places His Word near us: spoken, heard, and confessed. Salvation rests on Jesus’ work, not our spiritual clarity. The Word grows and sustains faith even when feelings fail.

In worship, God comes quietly through ordinary means. The Scriptures read aloud. Bread broken. Wine poured. Water bathing us in Jesus’ promise. God works through what seems simple, to deliver what is profoundly eternal.

We are reminded faith is not sustained by feeling close to God, but by hearing His promise.

Prayer: Lord, keep Your Word near our hearts when faith feels fragile. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God’s promise stands firm even when emotions waver.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.3)



Thursday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:1–4

Devotion Verse: The righteous shall live by his faith. *Habakkuk 2:4*

Title: Waiting without Answers

Our hearts often presses us to demand immediate clarity. Waiting feels risky. Uncertainty feels unsafe. The Bible teaches us to live by faith, trusting God’s promise even when the answer is delayed. Faith grows not through instant resolution, but through reliance on God’s Word, and God’s promise, even in the quiet times.

Waiting is not wasted time. That time is training and teaching. God often shapes trust in the quiet.

Closing Prayer: Patient God, teach us to live by faith and not by sight, as we wait. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Faith holds fast when answers delay.

Hymn: LSB 725 – Children of the Heavenly Father



Give Zion a try

Friday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Hebrews 4:14–16

Devotion Verse: We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize. *Hebrews 4:15*

Title: Never Alone

Often in life isolation feels like struggle. We assume no one really understands or see us. The Bible tells us Jesus knows isolation, temptation, and suffering. He walks with us, side by side, shoulder to shoulder, with us and for us.

Because Jesus endured the wilderness, we can approach Him with confidence knowing He does understand. He is present. When the heart lies, “He is not here” the truth of God’s Holy Word declares, “I am with you always.” Mercy meets us where we are.

Prayer: Merciful Savior, draw near to us in our weakness. Strengthen us with Your Word. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Jesus understands and walks with us and for us.

Hymn: LSB 571 – God Loved the World So That He Gave



Give Zion a try

Saturday – Lent 1

Suggested Reading: Psalm 46:1–3

Devotion Verse: God is our refuge and strength. *Psalm 46:1*

Title: Held in the Waiting

If we really look into our hearts it may expose our fear of times when life feels unstable. If we are honest, waiting exposes how much we like control. When life feels unstable, our hearts want reassurance we can actually see. We look for security in plans, progress, or visible improvement, and when those things fail, anxiety creeps in.

Psalm 46 speaks directly into this unease. God does not promise the absence of trouble. The earth may give way. The waters may roar. Yet God remains our refuge and strength. God's promise to us is rest, not because circumstances have settled, but because Christ has secured us.

Jesus entered the wilderness, endured temptation, and walked the road to the cross so His people could rest in God's promises. Our peace is anchored in His finished work, and His words, "It is finished."

As this first week of Lent draws to a close, we are invited to set down our striving. We rest, preparing to hear God's Word again tomorrow. Faith learns to be still, trusting God is at work even when we cannot see it.

Prayer: Lord, You are our refuge and strength. Teach us to rest in Your promise as we wait upon You. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Rest grows from trusting Christ's work rather than our own effort.

Hymn: LSB 752 – Be Still, My Soul



Give Zion a try

Lent 2

When Doubt Overwhelms You

Sunday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: John 3:1–17

Devotion Verse: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son..." *John 3:16*

Title: Faith Comes at Night

Doubt often arrives quietly. It slips in after the house settles, after the lights are turned down, after the day's noise finally fades. Nicodemus {*Nick-oh-deem-us*} comes to Jesus at night, not because he hates the light, but because questions feel safer when no one else is watching. Many of us recognize that moment. We believe, but questions linger, often when we are alone.

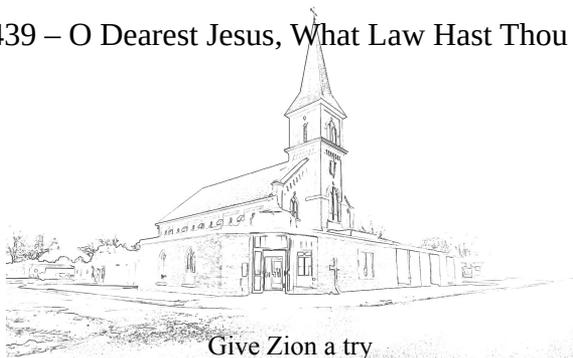
Even faithful people cannot always make doubt disappear and certainly not by trying harder or knowing more. We cannot force peace into our hearts. Certainty refuses to be commanded.

God's Word meets us where Nicodemus stands. Jesus does not send him away. He does not demand obedience but offers love. He speaks promise, "God so loved the world." That love does not depend on clarity or confidence. It rests on Jesus who was given for us.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, meet us in our questions and hold us in Your promise. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Christ comes to us even when our faith feels small.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.4)



Give Zion a try

Monday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 1:1–4

Devotion Verse: “O Lord, how long shall I cry for help...?”

Habakkuk 1:2

Title: How Long, O Lord?

Habakkuk dares to ask the question many of us keep buried. How long? Why does trouble remain? Why does God seem silent? These are not the questions of unbelief. They are the questions of faith that expect God to keep His promise and hear.

Our instinct is to measure God’s faithfulness by how quickly He fixes things. When answers delay, we assume something is wrong, either with God or with us.

God invites and welcomes honest prayer. Habakkuk is not scolded for asking. He is heard. God does not always explain Himself, but He never abandons His people. The Lord remains present even when the waiting stretches on.

We are free to bring our confusion to God without cleaning it up first. Faith does not silence our questions; it carries them to the Lord who promises to hear.

Closing Prayer: Faithful God, teach us to bring every question to You in trust. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Honest prayer is a sign of living faith.

Hymn: LSB 584 – Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing



Tuesday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: Romans 4:13–17

Devotion Verse: The righteous shall live by faith. *Habakkuk 2:4*

Devotion Title: *Living by Promise*

We are tempted to believe faith works like effort. If we study more, pray harder, or behave better, then peace will come. When it doesn't, frustration sets in.

Faithfulness measured by effort cannot steady a wondering heart. The Bible teaches something different. Abraham believed what God said long before he saw how it would happen. Habakkuk lived the same way. Faith rests on what God speaks, not on what we can see.

We are invited to stop striving for certainty and start trusting the Word God has already given. His promise is enough to carry us.

Closing Prayer: Gracious Lord, teach us to trust Your promises above our understanding. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's Word stands even when answers do not come quickly.

Hymn: LSB 555 – Salvation unto Us Has Come



Give Zion a try

Wednesday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: John 3:3–9

Devotion Verse: Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John 3:3*

Title: Born from Above

Nicodemus struggles to understand Jesus' words. New birth makes no sense to him. His confusion sounds familiar. We want faith to fit neatly into reason and experience.

We cannot reason our way into God's kingdom. Flesh cannot fix itself. Faith is not something we manufacture. God acts first. In Holy Baptism, God washes, names, and claims us as His own. New life does not depend on our understanding but on His promise.

When faith feels confusing, we are invited to return to what God has already done. Baptism stands as a concrete promise that God's work is sure.

Closing Prayer: Lord, help us rest in Your saving work when we do not understand. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's promise is stronger than our confusion.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.5)



Give Zion a try

Thursday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:1–4

Devotion Verse: The righteous shall live by his faith. *Habakkuk 2:4*

Devotion Title: Faith That Waits

Waiting is one of the hardest parts of faith. Habakkuk receives no quick solution, only a promise. God asks him to wait and trust. The problem is our discomfort with delay. We want resolution now. Waiting feels like abandonment.

God's Word assures us waiting is not wasted. God's promise does not have an expiration date. The Word of the Lord endures forever. Faith lives even when fulfillment is delayed.

We learn to wait not by looking inward, but by clinging to God's Word. His promise sustains us until His purposes unfold.

Closing Prayer: Give patient Lord, strengthen us to wait in hope. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Waiting is faith's quiet work.

Hymn: LSB 750 – If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee



Give Zion a try

Friday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: John 3:14–15

Devotion Verse: So must the Son of Man be lifted up. *John 3:14*

Title: God’s Final Answer

Habakkuk’s questions remain, but God’s ultimate answer comes later, on the cross. Jesus is lifted up to redeem us from the suffering sin brings. We cannot on our own escape its effect.

It is on the cross, Jesus carries our fear, confusion, and sin. God’s answer to “Why?” is not explanation, it is culmination and fulfillment of the promise to save us.

We look to the cross and see God has not turned away. He has drawn near to us.

Closing Prayer: Crucified Lord, hold us in Your redeeming love. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God’s presence is our deepest comfort.

Hymn: LSB 450 – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



Give Zion a try

Saturday – Lent 2

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 3:17–19

Devotion Verse: The Lord God is my strength. *Habakkuk 3:19*

Title: Held Through the Night

Even when circumstances remain difficult, faith rests in the Lord. Even though the trouble has not been removed. Still Habakkuk dares to say, “The Lord God is my strength.”

We want signs that things are getting better. We want proof that waiting is worth it. When those signs don’t appear, our hearts grow restless.

Rest does not come from changed circumstances but from a faithful Savior. Christ has already entered our darkness, carried our sin to the cross, and risen victorious. Because He remains faithful, our faith is not required to be strong. It is simply required to cling.

As this week ends, we rest not because answers have arrived, but because Christ has. In Him, the night’s darkness does not have the final word.

Closing Prayer: Lord, keep us in Your care through every night. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Rest belongs to those held by Christ.

Hymn: LSB 761 – Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



Give Zion a try

Lent 3

When You're Worn Out

Sunday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Exodus 17:1–7

Devotion Verse: Is the Lord among us or not? *Exodus 17:7*

Title: Faith When the Tank Is Empty

We recognize the moment immediately. We have kept going. We have prayed, trusted, waited, and obeyed. Still, the strength runs out. Israel reaches Rephidim {*Ref-eh-dim*} with no water left, and the question finally breaks through the exhaustion. It is not a question born of rebellion, but of weariness. Faith can grow tired.

How quickly do we begin to measure God's presence by our circumstances? When relief doesn't arrive quickly, doubt creeps in quietly. We may not stop believing, but we begin to wonder if God is truly near.

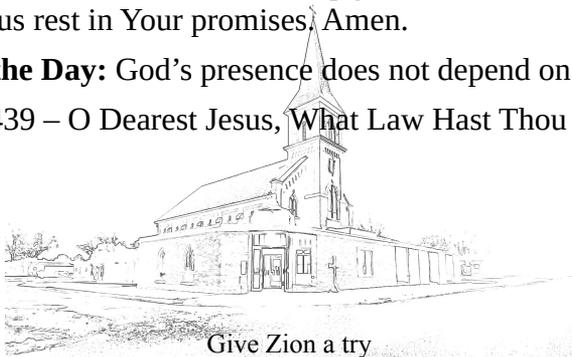
God does not abandon His people in the wilderness. Water flows from the rock. St. Paul later reminds us that Christ Himself is that Rock, struck for us, giving life when there is nothing left to give. God does not wait for strong faith. He supplies grace precisely where faith feels weakest.

In worship, we confess our need and receive God's provision again. The Lord meets weary people with real gifts, forgiveness, life, and salvation. Worn-out faith is still faith, because it rests in what God provides, not in what we produce.

Closing Prayer: Lord, when we are empty, remind us You remain faithful. Give us rest in Your promises. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's presence does not depend on our energy.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.6)



Give Zion a try

Monday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 1:1–4

Devotion Verse: O Lord, how long shall I cry for help? *Habakkuk 1:2*

Title: Trust That Keeps Showing Up

Habakkuk does not pretend everything is fine. He names the delay, the injustice, and the silence. Prayer continues, but relief does not arrive quickly. Many of us know this pattern well. We show up, we pray again, and we wait.

We are uncomfortable with unanswered prayer. We prefer quick and tidy resolutions. When God’s timing stretches out, impatience tempts us to disengage or assume our prayers no longer matter.

God hears before He answers. Habakkuk’s cries are preserved in Scripture, not as a failure of faith, but as a display of faithfulness. The Lord is already at work, even when the answer is delayed. Christ Himself prayed in agony and trusted the Father’s will all the way to the cross.

Faith does not always feel confident. Sometimes it simply keeps showing up. The Spirit sustains prayer when we cannot manufacture hope. God’s promises remain steady, even while fulfillment waits.

Closing Prayer: Faithful God, hold us when answers are delayed and trust feels thin. Teach us to wait in hope. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Waiting is not wasted when God is at work.

Hymn: LSB 427 – In the Cross of Christ I Glory



Give Zion a try

Tuesday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:1–4

Devotion Verse: The righteous shall live by his faith. *Habakkuk 2:4*

Title: Living on Promise, Not Momentum

Habakkuk climbs the watchtower and waits. There is no rush, no burst of renewed strength. The vision tarries. Faith remains.

Our tendency is to rely on momentum. We trust easily when things move forward. When progress stalls, discouragement threatens to take over.

Faith does not live on momentum. It lives on promise. God's Word sustains even when nothing seems to change. Christ fulfills every promise, not because we pushed forward, but because He remains faithful even unto death.

We confess faith not as a personal achievement, but as a gift sustained by the Holy Spirit. God keeps faith alive through His Word and Sacraments, especially when we feel empty.

Closing Prayer: Lord, teach us to live by Your promise when progress feels slow. Keep us rooted in Your Word. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Faith rests on what God has said.

Hymn: LSB 575 – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



Give Zion a try

Wednesday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: John 4:5–15

Devotion Verse: Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, was sitting beside the well. *John 4:6*

Title: Jesus Knows Weariness

Jesus sits down. The Son of God grows tired. He does not bypass human weakness. He enters it fully.

Yow often do we hide our exhaustion? We avoid being seen at the well. We hope no one notices how dry things have become in life.

God’s Word meets us in that exposure. Jesus speaks with a woman who is worn down by shame. He doesn’t shame her further. He offers living water. Christ does not wait for strength. He gives Himself where strength is gone.

In Christ, God does not remain distant from our weariness. He shares it. His cross stands as proof that He knows exhaustion, rejection, and thirst. From that place, He gives life.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, meet us in our weariness and refresh us with Your grace. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Christ meets us where we sit down exhausted.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.7)



Give Zion a try

Thursday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Romans 5:1–8

Devotion Verse: While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. *Romans 5:6*

Title: Loved While Weak

We often assume peace follows improvement. We rest once things are fixed. Scripture says otherwise. It shows us how deeply we often link worth to performance. Weakness feels like failure.

The Gospel speaks clearly. Christ dies for the weak. Love arrives before strength returns. Being made right before God does not wait for our own progress. It is given freely for Christ's sake.

This is comfort for the worn-out. God's love doesn't diminish when we falter. It was secured at the cross, where Christ carried weakness all the way to death.

Closing Prayer: Gracious Father, remind us Your love holds us even in weakness. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Christ's love arrives before strength does.

Hymn: LSB 439 – *O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken* (st. 5)



Give Zion a try

Friday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:18-20

Devotion Verse: The Lord is in His holy temple. *Habakkuk 2:20*

Title: God Is Still Present

Habakkuk's final word is quiet confidence. God remains.

Too often we equate silence with absence. When prayers echo back unanswered, fear grows and stop listening.

God's presence does not depend on our awareness. Christ has opened the way into God's presence, for all who believe, permanently. Even when we feel nothing, even when we forget, God remains faithful.

In worship, the Lord still comes to His people. His Word speaks. His Body and Blood are given. Presence does not fade with emotion.

Closing Prayer: Lord, quiet our fears with the promise of Your abiding presence. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God remains, even when feelings fade.

Hymn: LSB 770 – What a Friend We Have in Jesus



Give Zion a try

Saturday – Lent 3

Suggested Reading: Matthew 11:28–30

Devotion Verse: Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden.

Matthew 11:28

Title: Rest That Waits

Rest does not always mean immediate restoration. Often, it means being held in God's care while waiting continues.

We can become restless when life stays unresolved. We want closure.

The Gospel offers something deeper. Christ invites the weary to Himself. Rest begins before circumstances change. It flows from being carried by One who has already borne every burden.

As we come to the end of this week in our journey toward Easter, questions remain. Yet Christ's invitation stands firm. He is the final answer toward which all waiting and questions look for their resolution.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, teach us to rest in You while we wait. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Rest begins in Christ's promise.

Hymn: LSB 684 – Come Unto Me, Ye Weary



Give Zion a try

Lent 4

Light in the Darkness: Seeing in the Trial

Sunday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:1–7

Devotion Verse: As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. *John 9:5*

Title: Light Given, Not Explained

We often want answers before action. When something hurts, our first instinct is to ask why. Why now? Why me? Why this? The disciples stood in front of a blind man and asked the same kind of question. They wanted a cause they could manage.

Jesus did not give them an explanation. He gave the man sight.

That can feel unsettling. We are trained to believe understanding brings peace. Yet faith often works the other way around. Christ acts first. Peace follows later. Sometimes much later.

Habakkuk stood in the same tension. He cried out to God and waited for an answer. What he received was not a solution, but a promise. God was working even when the darkness remained.

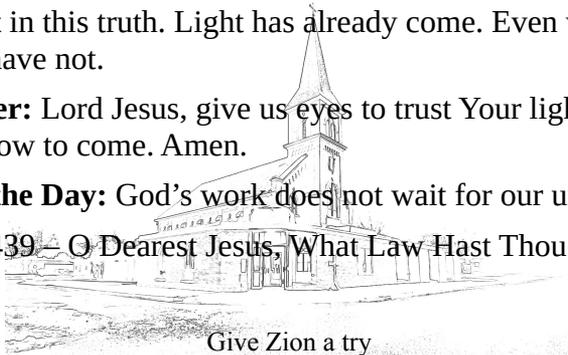
The Law exposes our need to control suffering. We assume peace will come once everything makes sense. The Gospel speaks a different word. Christ meets us in the dark and acts for us before we understand. He does not withhold His care until our questions are settled.

Today, we rest in this truth. Light has already come. Even when explanations have not.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, give us eyes to trust Your light when answers are slow to come. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God's work does not wait for our understanding.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.8)



Give Zion a try

Monday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:8–12

Devotion Verse: The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes.
John 9:11

Title: When Faith Becomes Visible

The man who had been blind did not ask to become a witness. He simply received sight. Yet once the light entered his life, people noticed. Questions followed. Conversations started. Faith became visible.

Many of us hope faith can remain private. Quiet. Unnoticed. Yet the moment Jesus touches our lives, something changes. Light does that. It reveals.

Habakkuk learned this as well. His complaint could not stay hidden. His waiting became a testimony. Others would see how he trusted God while the world around him remained unstable.

We sometimes fear standing out. We worry about how our belief will be received by others. The Gospel reminds us that witness begins not with bold speeches, but with honest confession. “This is what the Lord has done.”

God does not ask us to invent a story. He invites us to speak the truth of what we have received.

Closing Prayer: Lord, give us humility and courage to speak simply of Your work in our lives. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Light makes faith visible even when we try to keep it quiet.

Hymn: LSB 566 – By Grace I’m Saved



Give Zion a try

Tuesday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:18–23

Devotion Verse: They feared the Jews. *John 9:22*

Title: Fear That Silences

The parents of the healed man knew what had happened. They also knew the cost of saying too much. Fear narrowed their words. Silence felt safer.

Fear often works the same way in us. We weigh consequences. We measure reactions. We soften truth so it does not disturb anyone.

Habakkuk faced that same pressure. Trusting God in a violent world meant standing against the prevailing voice. Fear whispered silence would be easier.

Sometimes God’s Word exposes how fear shapes our faith. We protect ourselves rather than confess Christ. The Gospel reminds us Jesus Himself knows rejection. He stands with those who fear loss because of Him.

Christ does not shame the fearful. He meets them and invites them into deeper trust.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, quiet our fears and strengthen our trust in You. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Fear grows loud when faith grows costly.

Hymn: LSB 666 – O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



Give Zion a try

Wednesday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:24–34

Devotion Verse: One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see. *John 9:25*

Title: Confession Under Pressure

The healed man did not argue theology. He spoke what he knew. The truth cost him everything. He was cast out.

Faith sometimes reaches this moment. There comes a point when silence is no longer possible. Confession becomes necessary. It comes with a cost.

Habakkuk arrived there too. He stopped demanding explanations and rested in who God is. Trust replaced certainty.

How quickly do we retreat when confession carries consequences? The Bible assures us that Jesus never abandons those who stand with Him. Even when others turn away, He draws near.

God does not ask us to defend Him. He calls us to trust Him.

Closing Prayer: Lord, keep us faithful when confession becomes costly. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Truth spoken in trust honors God.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.9)



Give Zion a try

Thursday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:35–38

Devotion Verse: Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him... *John 9:35*

Title: Found by Christ

The most comforting moments can come quietly. Jesus goes looking. He finds the one pushed aside. This is how Christ works. He seeks those who have lost standing, reputation, or community because of faith.

Habakkuk reached this same resting place. Nothing around him improved, yet his trust deepened. God Himself became enough.

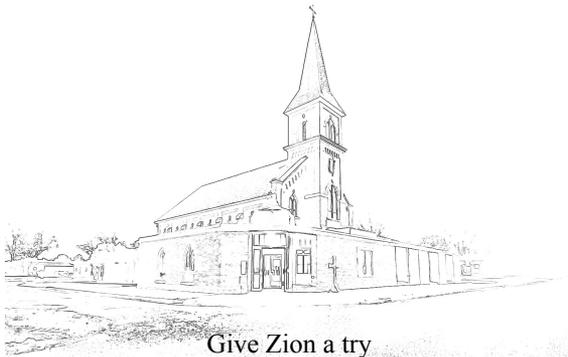
The Gospel shines clearly. Christ does not wait for us to return to Him. He comes to us. He reveals Himself. He strengthens faith.

We are never alone when we stand with Jesus.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for seeking us when we are weary and cast down. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Christ always seeks and finds His own. You are one of them.

Hymn: LSB 744 – Amazing Grace



Give Zion a try

Friday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: John 9:39–41

Devotion Verse: Those who do not see may see. *John 9:39*

Title: Seeing Clearly

Jesus speaks a hard word. Sight and blindness are reversed. Confidence without faith collapses. Trust without answers stands.

Habakkuk never received a full explanation. He received God. That proved sufficient.

Our desire is to see certainty. The Gospel invites us into humble trust; to walk by faith and not by sight. Faith does not require clarity. It rests in promise.

Seeing clearly means trusting Jesus even when the road's way ahead remains hidden.

Closing Prayer: Lord, give us faith that rests in You alone. Amen.

Thought for the Day: True sight begins with trust.

Hymn: LSB 702 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee



Give Zion a try

Saturday – Lent 4

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 3:17–19

Devotion Verse: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. *Habakkuk 3:18*

Title: Standing in Hope

Habakkuk's world did not improve. The fields were empty. The stalls were bare. Still, he stood in hope.

This is the posture of Lent. Faith does not deny the darkness. It stands in it with confidence in God's promise.

The Gospel assures us Christ has already walked this road. The cross stands ahead, yet resurrection is coming.

We end this week with Him walking beside us. We trust in His light.

Closing Prayer: Lord, keep us standing in hope as You lead us toward the cross. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Hope stands even when circumstances do not change.

Hymn: LSB 724 – I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name



Give Zion a try

Lent 5

When It Feels Too Late

Sunday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:1–3

Devotion Verse: I will take my stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the tower,

and look out to see what he will say to me,

and what I will answer concerning my complaint. *Habakkuk 2:1*

Devotion Title: Standing Watch

Habakkuk does not receive quick relief from the Lord. He is told to take his place on the watchtower and wait. That posture is uncomfortable for us. We would rather be busy than still, active rather than wait-filled watchful. Waiting feels unproductive, maybe even irresponsible. Faith sometimes looks exactly like standing still, but it is trusting God to act in His time.

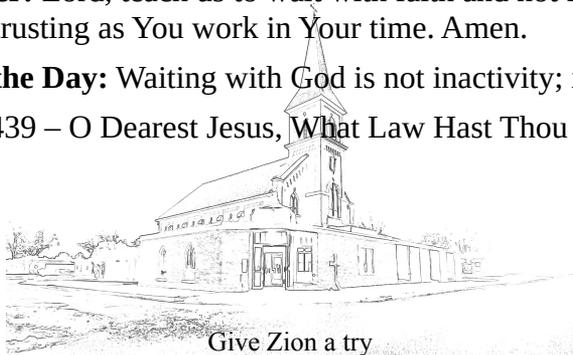
When answers don't come we sometimes fill the silence with worry, control, or distraction. We want to manage what God has not yet revealed. Habakkuk shows us another way: to stand watch, eyes open, heart steady, trusting the Lord has not forgotten you.

God invites His people to wait because He is already at work. The clarity may seem delayed, but it will not fail. In Jesus, God has already proven His faithfulness. The cross stands as the assurance waiting is never wasted when it rests in Him.

Closing Prayer: Lord, teach us to wait with faith and not fear. Keep us watchful and trusting as You work in Your time. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Waiting with God is not inactivity; it is trust.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.10)



Give Zion a try

Monday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Psalm 13:1–4

Devotion Verse: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me? *Psalm 13:1*

Devotion Title: When Silence Feels Heavy

Silence can be unsettling. When prayers seem unanswered and days pass without change, doubt begins to whisper. We wonder whether God hears us or whether He has turned away. The author of Psalm 13 puts to words what many of us feel but might hesitate to say out loud.

We often measure God’s care by how quickly He responds. When help does not come, we assume absence. Silence becomes heavy because it exposes how fragile our trust is.

God’s silence is never abandonment. In Jesus, God has spoken His final authoritative Word of mercy. The cross does not shout, but it does speak clearly: God is present even when He seems hidden. Silence does not cancel His promise. It presses us to lean more fully on it.

Closing Prayer: Lord, when Your silence weighs on us, anchor us in Your promises. Help us trust Your presence even when we cannot see it. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God’s silence does not mean His absence.

Hymn: LSB 611 – Chief of Sinners Though I Be



Give Zion a try

Tuesday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:2–3

Devotion Verse: For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. *Habakkuk 2:3*

Devotion Title: Written Plain

God tells Habakkuk to write the vision plainly. The message is not confusing or hidden, but its fulfillment is delayed. God’s Word is clear even when the reason for His timing is not.

We want clarity and completion at the same time. We struggle to trust promises that require waiting. When outcomes remain unseen, faith feels risky.

God’s promises are certain because they are anchored on Jesus who carried our sin, death, and judgment in our place. Because God kept His promise we can trust Him now. What is written plainly in the Bible will stand firm, even if fulfillment takes longer than we want.

Closing Prayer: Faithful God, help us trust what You have spoken, even when we must wait to see it fulfilled. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God’s promises are never late.

Hymn: LSB 587 – I Know My Faith Is Founded



Give Zion a try

Wednesday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Habakkuk 2:4-6

Devotion Verse: Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. *Habakkuk 2:4*

Devotion Title: The Dividing Line

Habakkuk draws a sharp contrast: pride that depends on itself and faith that depends on God. This dividing line still runs through every human heart. We want control, certainty, and self-reliance. Pride promises safety but delivers collapse.

The righteous live by faith. Faith does not boast in itself; it clings to Christ. Jesus lived fully dependent on the Father and carried that faith all the way to the cross. Because He remained faithful, we live eternally. Our hope rests not in who we are, but in what He has done.

Closing Prayer: Lord, turn us away from pride and teach us to live by faith in Christ alone. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Faith lives by trusting God.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.11)



Give Zion a try

Thursday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Romans 3:19–24

Devotion Verse: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

Devotion Title: The Weight of Sin

The season of Lent does not soften the truth about sin. It presses us to face it honestly. The guilt can be real. The weight can be heavy. Sin is not merely a mistake or weakness; it a stain that separates us from God. Left to ourselves, it would pull us into despair.

The good news of the Bible lifts the burden. Jesus took that weight on Himself. He carried sin to the cross and answered it with mercy.

Forgiveness is not earned; it is given. The weight that crushed us rests now on Him, and in Him we are free.

Closing Prayer: Merciful Savior, thank You for carrying the weight of our sin. Give us rest in Your forgiveness. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Christ carries what we cannot.

Hymn: LSB 560 – Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed



Give Zion a try

Friday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Hebrews 12:1–3

Devotion Verse: Look to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Devotion Title: Faith Under Pressure

Faith is often tested when pressure increases. The road grows narrow. The future feels uncertain. The prophet Habakkuk knew this tension well. Our temptation is to give up or turn back when faith becomes costly. Pressure exposes what we truly trust.

The Gospel sets our eyes on Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. He walked the path we could not. Because He remained faithful under pressure, we are not alone when ours increases. He walks with us, steady and sure.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, strengthen our faith when the road grows hard. Keep our eyes fixed on You. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Faith endures by looking to Jesus.

Hymn: LSB 430 – My Song Is Love Unknown



Give Zion a try

Saturday – Lent 5

Suggested Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Devotion Verse: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. *Zechariah 9:9*

Devotion Title: Waiting for the King

As week 5 of Lent comes to a close, the road we travel with Jesus leads toward Jerusalem. Waiting gives way to movement. The King draws near.

The Law reminds us how often we misunderstand what kind of King we really need. We look for power and spectacle. God sends humility and mercy. He comes gentle and saving, riding toward the cross. The waiting of Lent has not been empty. It has prepared our hearts to see Jesus clearly and receive Him in faith.

Closing Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus. Prepare our hearts to receive You with faith and trust. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The King comes to save.

Hymn: LSB 334 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



Give Zion a try

Palm Sunday – Holy Week He Goes On Ahead of Us

Suggested Reading: Matthew 21:1–11

Devotion Verse: Behold, your king is coming to you; humble, and mounted on a donkey. *Matthew 21:5*

Devotion Title: He Goes On Ahead of Us

Palm Sunday begins with cheering. Cloaks are thrown down. Branches are waved. Voices rise in hope. It feels like the start of something strong and victorious. We know what it is like to begin something with energy only to discover later the road will be harder than we imagined.

The crowd expected quick change and visible triumph. We often do the same. We pray for relief, for clarity, for strength, and when the road turns steep or quiet, we grow uncertain. Our praise becomes hesitant.

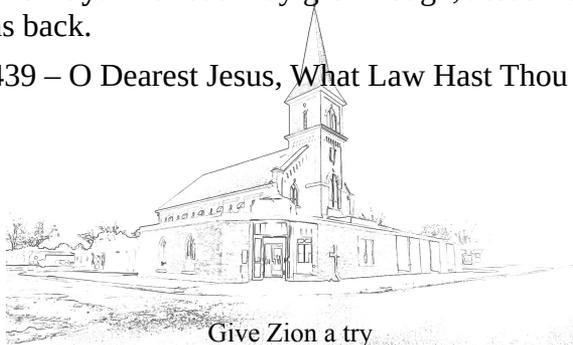
Jesus does not hesitate. He arranges the colt. He enters the city. He rides forward knowing where the road leads. He does not stumble into suffering; He chooses it out loud and on purpose. His humility is not weakness but obedience.

This is our comfort. When our courage fades, His does not. When our voices fall silent, His purpose remains steady. He goes ahead of us not to show us how brave we should be, but to accomplish what we could not. By His obedience we are forgiven. By His forward steps we are brought home.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, as You entered Jerusalem, enter our hearts with Your steady grace. Keep us close as You walk the road for us. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The road may grow rough, Jesus walks with us and never turns back.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.12)



Monday of Holy Week

Suggested Reading: Matthew 26:31–35

Devotion Verse: You will all fall away because of me this night.

Matthew 26:31

Title: When the Cheers Fade

It is easier to promise loyalty than to live it. Peter meant every word when he declared he would never fall away. We understand that confidence. In calm moments, we believe we will stand firm. Then the pressure comes. Fears whisper. We grow quiet.

Holy Week strips away the illusions. The same disciples who walked proudly into Jerusalem will soon scatter. Their courage collapses under the weight of danger. We know this pattern. We say we trust Jesus. Then difficulty comes, a diagnosis, a strained relationship, a hidden temptation, and our faith trembles.

Jesus already knows this about us. He foretells the disciples failures, and He still walks toward the cross. He doesn't retreat when our resolve weakens. His obedience does not depend on our strength.

The Gospel shines here: Jesus' faithfulness stands where ours fails. He goes ahead of weak disciples. He goes ahead of hesitant believers. He goes ahead of us.

Closing Prayer: Faithful Savior, when our confidence falter, hold us in Your steadfast love. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Our weakness does not cancel Christ's purpose.

Hymn: LSB 430 – My Song Is Love Unknown



Give Zion a try

Tuesday of Holy Week

Suggested Reading: Luke 9:51-53

Devotion Verse: He set His face to go to Jerusalem. *Luke 9:51*

Title: The Steady Resolve

The phrase is simple but powerful: “He set His face toward Jerusalem.” There is determination in those words. We know the feeling of setting our face toward something difficult, an uncomfortable conversation, a hard decision, a long night of waiting.

Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem long before the palms were waved. He knew betrayal and sorrow awaited Him. Still, He walked forward.

Our problem is not that we face hard roads; it is that we often turn away from them. We avoid what feels costly. We protect ourselves. Jesus did just the opposite. He walks toward what will cost Him everything.

His resolve is not stubborn pride but loving obedience and a love for you that goes beyond description. He carries our sin into that city. He carries our fear. He carries our guilt.

Because He set His face toward Jerusalem, we do not face judgment alone. His forward steps become our salvation and a declaration of “innocent” before the throne of God.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for walking toward what we could not face. Strengthen us by Your faithful love. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Jesus’ resolve is the anchor of our hope.

Hymn: LSB 438 – A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



Give Zion a try

Wednesday of Holy Week

Suggested Reading: Isaiah 50:6-8

Devotion Verse: I have set my face like a flint. *Isaiah 50:7*

Title: The Quiet Before the Cross

Midweek often feels ordinary. No parade. No dramatic scene. Just walk over the hump of another week. Holy Wednesday carries that same stillness. The cross stands near, but nothing visible has happened.

We sometimes struggle with the quiet days. We prefer visible progress. When God seems silent, we grow impatient.

The Servant in Isaiah speaks with steady confidence: “I have set My face like a flint.” Flint is firm, hard. This prophecy points to Jesus’ unwavering obedience.

Even in silence, God is at work. The cross is not an accident waiting to happen. It is the plan unfolding step by step. Our comfort is not found in noise or spectacle but in the certainty that Jesus’ obedience continues, even when we cannot see it.

Closing Prayer: Lord, when our days feel quiet and uncertain, remind us Your saving work never pauses. Amen.

Thought for the Day: God’s silence is not His absence.

Hymn: LSB 431 – Not All the Blood of Beasts



Give Zion a try

Maundy Thursday

(Maundy Thursday is a strange name. 'Maundy' is Latin for "Mandate" or "Commandment." This is the day Jesus gives a new commandment. See v.34-35)

Suggested Reading: John 13:1–15, 34-35

Devotion Verse: Having loved His own... He loved them to the end.
John 13:1

Title: Love Given

On this night Jesus kneels. The King washes feet. The Teacher serves the students. We might expect power; instead we see humility. We resist this sort of display of love. We prefer strength and independence. Letting someone serve us feels uncomfortable.

Jesus' kneeling reveals the heart of salvation. He serves us not only with water but with His body and blood. He gives Himself fully. The Holy Meal He gives this night is not symbolic encouragement. It is the very living Gospel. In the Sacred Supper, Jesus goes ahead of us into death and brings life back to us. He places forgiveness into our hands and onto our tongues.

When we receive what He gives, we receive the promise that His obedience covers our sin, and leave this Holy Table forgiven and free.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, as You give Yourself to us, keep us in Your forgiving love. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Jesus' humility feeds us with mercy.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.13)



Give Zion a try

Good Friday

*(“Good Friday” is a strange name for the day Jesus’ died.
It is ‘good’ because without His death our death brings only hopeless pain.
With His death, and resurrection on the third day, life eternal is ours.)*

Suggested Reading: John 19:16–30

Devotion Verse: It is finished. *John 19:30*

Title: He Does Not Turn Back

The road ends at a cross. The cheers are gone. The sky grows dark. The words “It is finished” echo in the stillness.

We know what unfinished business feels like: apologies not spoken, tasks left undone, burdens unresolved. Our lives are full of what remains incomplete.

Jesus’ final words are different. “It is finished” declares completion. The debt is paid. The sacrifice is accepted. The work to save you is done.

The Law of God shows us our unfinished righteousness. The Gospel announces Christ’s finished righteousness given to you, for you.

He does not turn back. He carries sin to its end. He bears judgment fully. Still, the darkness does not win. His death becomes our life. In three days it will be seen.

Closing Prayer: Righteousness Crucified Savior, thank You for finishing what we never could. Keep us in the shadow of Your cross. Amen.

Thought for the Day: What Jesus finishes, no darkness can undo.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.14)



Give Zion a try

Holy Saturday

Suggested Reading: Matthew 27:57–66

Devotion Verse: They went and made the tomb secure. *Matthew 27:66*

Title: Waiting in the Quiet

Holy Saturday feels still. The stone is sealed. The disciples are hiding. Hope appears buried, dead and gone. We know days like this, when prayers seem unanswered and promises feel distant. Waiting can feel like defeat.

Yet even in the tomb, Jesus' work is not undone. The Church has long confessed "He descended into hell" proclaiming victory. Even death cannot silence Him.

Our faith often waits in quiet places. We do not yet see resurrection light. Yet the One who went ahead of us has entered even death itself. Because He entered the grave, the grave cannot hold us. The silence of Saturday is not the end of the story. Easter comes!

Closing Prayer: Lord of life, teach us to wait with trust, knowing that Your victory stands even in silence. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Silence is not the same as defeat.

Hymn: LSB 444 – No Tramp of Soldiers' Marching Feet



Give Zion a try

Easter Sunday (Victory Week)

Suggested Reading: Luke 24:1–12

Devotion Verse: He is not here, but has risen. *Luke 24:6*

Title: The Stone Rolled Away

We know what it feels like to arrive expecting disappointment. The women walked to the tomb prepared to see death. They carried spices, not hope. We often do the same. We brace for the worst. We assume the stone will still be stuck.

Our sin trains us to expect defeat. We know our failures. We know our weakness. We know how easily fear creeps in. Death appears permanent. Regret feels heavy. Shame whispers loudly.

Yet the stone was already rolled away!

The resurrection is not a fragile wish. It is God's decisive act. Jesus did not merely survive death. He crushed it. He did not negotiate with the grave, He emptied it. In Him, our sin is forgiven. In Him, death has lost its sting. In Him, the future is open and bright.

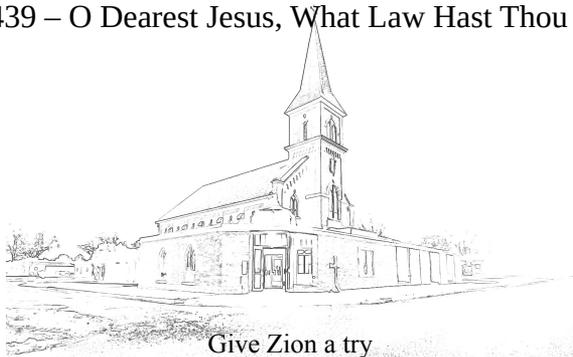
Today we stand in victory! Our Holy Baptism unites us to this risen Lord. The forgiveness we hear is backed by an empty tomb. The Holy Supper we receive comes from living hands.

Christ is risen! The stone is rolled away! We walk in light.

Closing Prayer: Risen Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering death for us. Fill our hearts with Easter joy and steady confidence. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The grave is empty. Our hope is full.

Hymn: LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v.15)



Give Zion a try

Easter Monday

Suggested Reading: John 20:19–23

Devotion Verse: “Peace be with you.” *John 20:19*

Title: Peace in the Locked Room

The disciples locked the doors. Resurrection Day morning had come, and the Resurrection Day evening, yet fear still lingered. We understand that feeling. Even after Easter joy, the stresses of life can creep back in. The bills remain. The diagnosis doesn't go away. The conflict still needs mending.

Fear often locks our hearts. We hide behind routines and distractions. We know Jesus has risen, yet we still tremble at tomorrow.

Then Jesus comes and stands among them!

He does not scold their fear. He speaks peace. His wounds are visible, yet they are no longer marks of defeat. They are trophies of mercy for you. The same Lord who died now breathes life and forgiveness into you.

The risen Christ comes to you surely, in the Holy Word, in Holy Baptism, in the Holy Supper, and in the forgiveness spoken to you in the stead and by the command of the Lord Christ. He enters the rooms we lock. He speaks peace into our chaos.

We are not alone! The living Savior stands with us!

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, step into our fear and speak Your peace. Remind us Your victory is present and personal. Amen.

Thought for the Day: No locked door can keep out the risen Christ.

Hymn: LSB 461 – I Know That My Redeemer Lives



Give Zion a try

Easter Tuesday

Suggested Reading: John 20:24–29

Devotion Verse: My Lord and my God! *John 20:28*

Title: Hope for the Doubter

Thomas wanted proof. We sometimes do too. We want answers to suffering. We want clarity about the future. Doubt whispers that maybe we misunderstood the Easter joy. Doubt can make us feel hesitant. We wonder if real believers should struggle. We question our own faith.

Jesus comes for Thomas just like He comes for you.

The risen Lord invites him to touch the wounds. He does not reject the doubter. He reveals Himself. Thomas moves from hesitation to confession: “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus meets us in our uncertainty. The Gospel does not depend on the strength of our faith but on the strength of His resurrection. Even when our trust wavers, His victory stands firm.

Our confidence rests not in perfect belief, but in a perfect and living Savior.

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, strengthen our weak faith. Meet us in our questions and anchor us in Your risen life. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The risen Christ is greater than our doubts.

Hymn: LSB 463 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



Give Zion a try

Easter Wednesday

Suggested Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

Devotion Verse: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

Title: Death Has Lost Its Sting

We still attend funerals. We still shed tears. The sting of death feels sharp and personal. Resurrection joy does not erase the pain and the grief.

Sin brought death into the world. Our mortality reminds us we cannot save ourselves. We cannot outwork the grave, but Christ has done the work we could not.

His resurrection guarantees ours. Death is no longer a dead-end. It is a doorway. The sting has been removed because the poison of sin has been forgiven. The victory, your victory, is already secured.

Even in sorrow, we stand in hope. We grieve as people who know the end of the story. Jesus is risen! Eternal life is your!

Closing Prayer: God of life, comfort us in loss and fill us with Easter hope. Thank You for the victory won in Christ. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Because Jesus lives, death does not win.

Hymn: LSB 490 – Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won



Give Zion a try

Easter Thursday

Suggested Reading: Romans 6:3–11

Devotion Verse: We too might walk in newness of life. *Romans 6:4*

Title: Walking in Newness of Life

We often slip back into old habits. Anger resurfaces. Patience runs thin. We wonder if anything truly changed. Our sinful nature clings tightly. It resists the light. We feel stuck in patterns that seem stronger than our good intentions.

Yet in Holy Baptism we were united with Jesus' death and resurrection. The old self was crucified. The new self lives. This is not motivational speaking. It is sacramental reality. We are alive in Christ.

Each day becomes a chance to walk differently, not to earn forgiveness, but because forgiveness is already earned, for you. Resurrection power works quietly and steadily in daily faithfulness.

We rise because He rose!

Closing Prayer: Risen Savior, help us walk in the new life You have given. Strengthen us by Your Spirit each day. Amen.

Thought for the Day: In Christ, today is a new beginning.

Hymn: LSB 458 – Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands



Give Zion a try

Easter Friday

Suggested Reading: Revelation 21:1–5

Devotion Verse: Behold, I am making all things new. *Revelation 21:5*

Title: Light for the Weary

Some days feel heavy even during Easter week. Responsibilities return. The glow of Sunday fades. Weariness settles in. We live in a world still marked by brokenness. Not every tear dries quickly. Not every prayer is answered in the way we expect.

Yet the risen Christ promises renewal!

The resurrection is the first sunrise of a new creation. The future is not uncertain. It is secured. Jesus is making all things new, even when we cannot yet see the finished work.

We endure with hope because the final chapter has already been written in victory.

Closing Prayer: Lord of the new creation, renew our weary hearts and fix our eyes on Your promised future. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Easter light shines beyond today's burdens.

Hymn: LSB 465 – Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



Give Zion a try

Easter Saturday

Suggested Reading: John 21:1–14

Devotion Verse: It is the Lord! *John 21:7*

Title: Awaiting the Everlasting Morning

After resurrection appearances, the disciples went fishing. Life continued. We understand that rhythm. After great celebration, we return to daily routines. Sometimes we wonder whether we imagined the joy. Ordinary work can dull extraordinary hope.

Then Jesus stands on the shore!

He fills their nets. He prepares breakfast. He reminds them resurrection shapes even common days. The risen Lord is not distant. He walks with us in our places in life, our homes, our conversations.

We await the everlasting morning, yet even now Jesus meets us in the ordinary, and fills it with eternal purpose.

Easter is not a moment! It is our life!

Closing Prayer: Risen Lord, meet us in our daily work and keep our eyes fixed on Your everlasting morning. Amen.

Thought for the Day: The risen Christ stands on the shore of every ordinary day.

Hymn: LSB 467 – Awake, My Heart, with Gladness



Give Zion a try



Give Zion a try



Give Zion a try



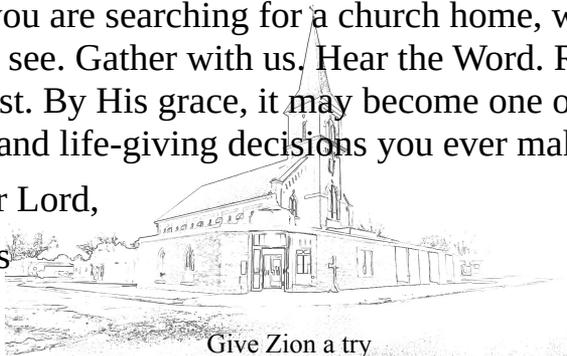
Zion Lutheran Church
301 N 2nd St.
Colby, WI 54421
ZionColby.org
715-223-2166

You are welcome here.

These devotions have offered only a small glimpse of the peace and hope regularly proclaimed at Zion. Throughout Lent we have walked from ashes to resurrection light, and our prayer is that these words have strengthened your heart along the way. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to come and see. Gather with us. Hear the Word. Receive the gifts of Christ. By His grace, it may become one of the most meaningful and life-giving decisions you ever make.

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor James



Give Zion a try



Proclaiming God's Word
Encouraging one another in faith
Witnessing to God's love
Serving all people



Join us: Sunday 9:00am
Wednesday 10:30am

Warm, Friendly, Inviting.
Everyone is welcome.



On the Web:
ZionColby.org



Find all our Social media and podcast connections at:
ZionColby.org/social-media-links/



Office: 715-223-2166

3:16-Sermons by Phone: 715-316-8149 (John 3:16) *No Internet or smartphone needed*

5:17-Prayer Requests: 715-390-0517 (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Your prayer request will be forward to our prayer team.*



Give Zion a try