# Zíon Lutheran Church

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March 16, 2025

## Nevertheless,



I must go on my way

Luke 13:31

## Zion Lutheran Church

#### Sundays with Zion

Worship . . . . . . 9:30 a.m. Sunday Bible Hour . . . . . . . 11:00 a.m.

## Second Sunday in Lent - March 16, 2025

Please observe a few minutes of quiet time as you prepare for worship. We invite you to **pray** and read the **Scriptures** for the day.

#### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY (Please see "Words to prepare our hearts and lives" on page 16)

**ALL WORSHIPERS** are asked to please fill out the information sheet in the bulletin. Before we begin, you are also invited to pray and to read the Scripture for today's worship.

#### A PRAYER AS WE GATHER

O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as You gather us together to worship You in spirit and in truth, prepare us to receive the preaching of Your Word and all Your lifegiving gifts such that we would repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Rescuer, and grow in caring service for all. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

#### As We Gather

A sly first approach by the Pharisees is given to scare Jesus off and make Him go away. Does it work? Christ's response gives us a distinct clue. Jesus says He "must go on my way." What was that way? His determination gives inspiration to us when faced with challenges that scare us off or tempt us to take the easy way out.

Stand

#### Press On

Where two or three are gathered in the name of the Lord, He is here, He is here in our midst. And we will sing together, be renewed by the Word, When we part, may we go in His peace.

#### Chorus

Press on all you saints Press on till the end Christ with us, ever with us Until He comes again Press on all you saints Run and run to win Christ with us ever with us Until He comes again

Now let the Word be scattered like the seed on the soil. Day by day, watch it grow in His care And may you be a shelter as you reach to the lost Glad in hope, calm in pain, true in prayer. *Chorus* 

And may He find us waiting with our lamps burning still
Keeping watch through the night til He comes
For soon it will be morning and the sun will appear
Christ who brought us this far brings us home

Chorus

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## The Baptism of Meatta Flojaune Serei Sawyer

## Brief Foundation for Baptism in Scripture

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39)

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27)

"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14)

P The Scriptures also show us that the brokenness and death that we experience in this world are because we have each inherited sin from our first parents. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and the power of the devil. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ to give His life in our place. His death has atoned for the sin of the whole world such that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have

eternal life. He rose again from the dead for this child and for all of us, and today He claims this child as His own.

## The Child's Name and the Sign of the Cross

- **P** How is this child named?
- R Meatta Flojaune Serei Sawyer

#### **P** Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Meatta according to Your boundless mercy and bless her with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in her, which has been inherited from Adam and which she herself has committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that she be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, she would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### C Amen.

#### Address to the Parents

Parents, you are especially responsible for teaching Meatta to observe all that Christ has commanded us, for raising her up in the teaching and life of the Christian Faith. She needs you to continually remind her of her baptism, to guard her with your prayers, to place the Holy Scriptures in her hands so that she will be wise for salvation, to faithfully bring her to gather for worship around Christ's life-giving gifts, and to be strong examples for her in the holy life of faith in Christ and of service to other people.

Is it your intention to serve Meatta in this way?

- **R** Yes, with the help of God.
- P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- Amen.

#### Address to the Church

P Fellow Christians, in your own baptisms Christ has made you His royal priests so that you may proclaim His excellencies to the world, and He has given you to serve one another. Meatta needs you, the Church to come alongside her parents, to partner with and to support them in training Meatta to follow Jesus in faith.

Speaking on behalf of the whole worldwide Church, is it your intention to serve Meatta in this way?

- Yes, with the help of God.
- P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- C Amen.
- As you prepare to serve in these ways, consider what Christ has turned you away from and the Faith to which He has instead called you:

Do you renounce the devil?

- **Q** Yes, I renounce him.
- P Do you renounce all his works?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you renounce all his ways?
- Yes, I renounce them.
- **P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?
- Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?
- Yes, I believe 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.

- **P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
- Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting.

## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

## The Gift of Baptism

- Meatta Flojaune Serei Sawyer, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life → everlasting.
- C Amen.

## Receiving as Jesus' Church

In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as

our sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to partner with us in His mission.
- P Let us pray:

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Meatta the new birth in Holy Baptism and made her a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as she has now become Your child, You would keep her in her baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure she may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- Amen.
- Lord and Giver of life, look with kindness upon the parents raising this child and upon all our parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.
- Peace + be with you.
- C Amen.

**Invocation** Matthew 28:19

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## Service of the Word

## Confession and Absolution

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel (Silence for reflection on our need for forgiveness)

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

Stand



- C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority (John 20:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:1), I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

## **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 26:8-15

<sup>8</sup>When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

**Epistle** 

Philippians 3:17—4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Holy Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! <sup>35</sup>Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

## Children's Message

Children are invited to the front for a brief teaching especially for them.



Sermon

"I Must Go On My Way..."

Pastor Russ Hess

## Offering

Please leave a yellow information sheet for your household in the plate that is passed with any offerings you may have as an act of worship in response to Christ's abundant kindness toward us.

(You can also click on the Online Giving button at ZionLutheranNH.org to set up one-time or recurring payments when you are at home or even now in worship, which may take you only 2 minutes)

## How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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## Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Remember the congregations of Your Church, O Lord, which You have purchased with the holy blood of Your Son. Strengthen and defend all pastors and church workers, giving them every good gift as they attend to Your people. Cause us rightly to fear Your anger and rejoice in Your redemption. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### C hear our prayer.

Remember us in a world convulsed by the wages of sin. As we watch nations falter, remind us that our eternal citizenship is in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ, who will subject all things to Himself. As we watch our own bodies fail, remind us that Christ will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body. Lord, in Your mercy,

### • hear our prayer.

Remember the households of this congregation, O Lord. Provide help and companionship to those who live alone, and foster love between husbands and wives, parents and children, that our homes would not be places to worship our bellies, glory in shame or set our minds on earthly things, but a refuge while here and a foretaste of our heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### C hear our prayer.

L Remember our nation and those You have placed in authority, O Lord. Give them wisdom and integrity, and grant that neither they nor the citizens of our land would hinder Your Church or despise Your call to repentance. Lord, in Your mercy,

## • hear our prayer.

Remember the sick and afflicted, O Lord. Deliver them for the sake of Christ, who cast out demons and performed cures on His way to the cross. Strengthen their faith to hold fast to Him, who rose again to raise them also. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Remember this household of faith, O Lord, and gather us together at Your altar as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Unite us in true confession of Your Word, sincere repentance for our sins, and joyful confidence in Your Son's body and blood for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

## • hear our prayer.

Remember us, O Lord, for the sake of Your Son, who suffered the reproach of mankind as He bore our sins to the cross. Strengthen us gladly to bear reproach in Your name and declare Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

- L All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
- C Amen.

## Service of the Sacrament

Preface 208

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.



■ Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

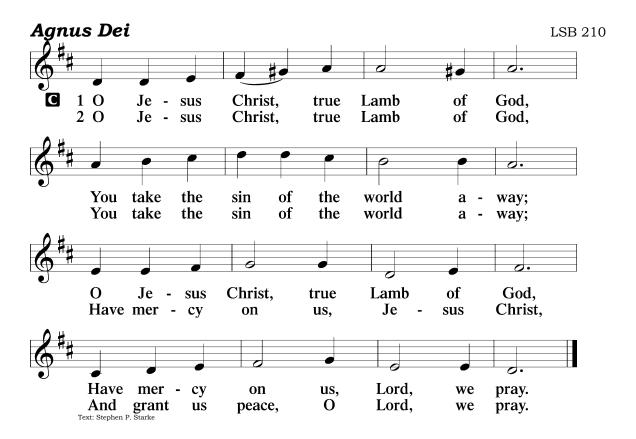
## The Words of Our Lord

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: "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 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 it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



#### Distribution

## Words to prepare our hearts and lives

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful means of grace given to us by God. Christ gives His body and blood to forgive sins, renew faith, and cause us to grow in His love and service. We also remember and praise God for the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf on the cross. Out of pastoral concern and care and taking to heart the word in 1 Corinthians 11:36, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup," before receiving this means of God's grace properly we should positively answer the following:

- Do I need forgiveness for sin?
- Do I believe in Christ as my Savior and have been Baptized?
- Do I believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine?
- Do I desire to turn from sin and live for God and others in love and service?

If you are unsure or desire to learn more about what it means to take the Lord's Supper, please speak with an elder or pastor before or after the service. Those not partaking of the Lord's Supper, including children, are invited to come forward with arms folded across the chest to receive a blessing

Grape juice is available in the center of the serving tray God's Blessings!

#### Prayer before Communing

O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make me ready to receive the most holy Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### After Receiving Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving Body and Blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths feasted on this holy meal, we may by faith obtain and forever enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, eternal life in Christ, and unity with one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Bread of Life

Eat of the bread, drink of the wine, Take and remember ev'ry time. Sweet forgiveness, holy and pure; Presence of the Savior for the world.

#### Chorus

Here is the bread of life for me. Here is a well that won't run dry. Jesus, Messiah, has come to me And made a way for eternal life.

Eat of the body, drink of the blood. Mercy poured out from Lamb of God. Led to the slaughter, silent and pure, Love laid down His life for all the world.

Chorus

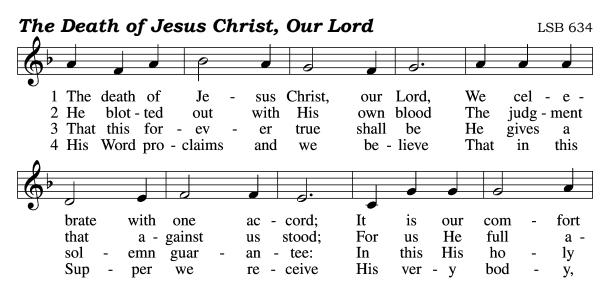
## Bridge

Washed in a flood
Of selfless love.
Freedom in Christ,
Called from death to life. Repeat

You are the bread of life for me. You are a well that won't run dry. Jesus, Messiah, You came for me And made a way for eternal life.

Eat of the bread, drink of the wine. Take and remember ev'ry time.

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- 5 We dare not ask how this can be, But simply hold the mystery And trust this word where life begins: "Given and shed for all your sins."
- 6 They who this word do not believe
  This food unworthily receive,
  Salvation here will never find—
  May we this warning keep in mind!
- 7 But blest is each believing guest Who in these promises finds rest; For Jesus shall in love remain With all who here His grace obtain.
- 8 Help us sincerely to believe That we may worthily receive Your Supper and in You find rest. Amen! They who believe are blest.

Text (sts. 1-4, 6-8): Haquin Spegel, 1645-1714; (sts. 1-4, 6-8): tr. Olof Olsson, 1841-1900, alt.; (st. 5): composite Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742 Text and tune: Public domain

#### The Wine and the Bread

#### Chorus

The wine and the bread, The table is set. This is His body, His blood. The bread and the wine, Remembering we find Jesus is here for us.

He calls us to come to Him. He will cover all our sins, Son of God, full of truth and grace.
We pray that we will offer praise,
And worship Him for all our days.
We hunger for His righteousness and faith. *Chorus* 

In the mystery of love,
You came to us from up above
That we may see Your glory and Your light.
Holy Blessed Trinity,
What was, What is, and What will be,
We hunger for Your everlasting life. *Chorus* 

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Stand

#### **Post-Communion Collect**

A 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.

**Benediction**Numbers 6:23-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

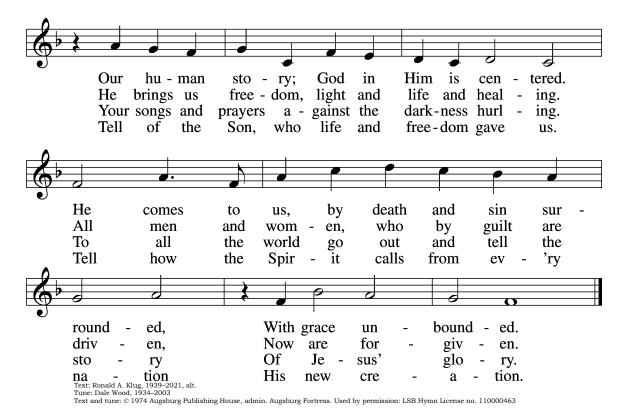
The Lord look upon you with favor and 

→ give you peace.

C Amen.

Rise, Shine, You People LSB 825 you peo - ple! 1 Rise. Christ the Lord has shine, tered en He sends the 2 See pow'rs of vil how reel ing;

e - brate, your 3 Come. cel ban - ners high un furl ing, 4 Tell how the Fa - ther His Son sent to save us.



## Acknowledgments

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## **◆ The VISION of Zion Lutheran Church ◆**

In response to God's amazing grace and love Zion Lutheran Church is a place of refuge where children, youth and adults are:

**G**ROUNDED in God's unchanging Word,

**R**EACHING OUT with the Good News of Jesus Christ locally and globally,

ACCEPTING others in the same loving way God has accepted us,

CHANGING into committed Christ followers, and EMPOWERED to be Christ's hands and feet joyfully serving others.

## **Our Core Values**

#### We Believe:

- ♦ We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2: 8-9; Rom. 3:22-24; Titus 3:4-7)
- ♦ Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- ♦ Scripture is the Word of God. It is without error and our only source for life and faith! (2 Tim. 3:16; John 20:31; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- ♦ Baptism & the Lord's Supper are the means by which God touches our lives with His grace. (Rom 6:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21; Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
- ◆ God has chosen us to proclaim the Gospel to our community and world. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15)
- ♦ In the power of God working through the Holy Spirit & Prayer. (John 14:26; Acts 4:31; Mark 11:24; Phil 4:6-7)
- ♦ We desire to remain a loving (1Cor 13; 1John 4:7-11), caring family of God.
- ♦ We cherish our Lutheran heritage.