

**ZION CHURCH – FREELAND, MI**  
**OUR SAVIOUR CHURCH – SAGINAW, MI**  
*Connecting Everyday Life with Everyday Faith*

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**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2020**

*10:00am Live Stream*

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*Welcome!*

*All are welcomed here. All are welcome regardless of race, culture, wealth, poverty, political affiliation, age, education level, faith tradition, health, (physical, mental, emotional) or wounded, LGBTQ+ identity, married, single, divorced, widow, or nationality. Nothing separates us from God's love in Christ Jesus.*

**Lent 2020: Transition – Change – Serenity**

This season we are intentionally inviting a change in your life. It is time to examine the barriers that keep us from living our faith more fully in our daily life. It is time to ask ourselves what can we change to be more faithful? How can we live by our church's guiding statements and the serenity prayer?

Even in unprecedented and unsettling times of physical social distancing, how may we stay connected with our loved ones, our church family, and our community. As a church, how may we continue to serve others? How can we invite God's peace into our lives, and the lives of those around us, during this time?

# Order of Worship

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME, PRELUDE

## OPENING LENTEN PRAYER

*Spoken in Unison*

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the  
difference. Amen.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who  
gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**C: Amen**

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away  
from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered  
from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love  
for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new  
hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to  
you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my  
spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is  
forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ, who is the free and  
abounding gift of God's grace for you.

**C: Amen**

## HYMN

*Give Me Jesus*

WOV 777

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

*Refrain*

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.

Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. *Refrain*

Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. *Refrain*

## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **GOSPEL READING     *John 11:1-45***

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup>Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup>After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup>Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips

of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P: Gospel of the Lord.

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

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON

#### HYMN

*I Am the Bread of Life*

WOV 702

"I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

*Refrain*

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

"I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world. *Refrain*

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its renewal (*like Hans Nielsen Hauge, whom we commemorate today*). Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us, for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other

natural disasters (*especially*). Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain (*especially*). Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. (*Particular ministry partnerships may be named.*) Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We continue the prayers for the parishes and pastors with whom we are partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Today, we lift up Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Rev. Jane Mountain, and Rev. Chris Anderson. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*especially*). Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you!

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Spoken in Unison*

**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.**

**BLESSING**

P: Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy  
God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✠ bless you, unbind you,  
and send you in love and in peace.

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness<sup>1</sup>*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love

*Chorus*

Beginning to end my life in Your hands  
Great great is Your faithfulness  
You never let go this one thing I know  
Great great is Your faithfulness

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside (*Chorus*)

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<sup>1</sup> "Great is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End)" words & music by Jason Ingram | Michael Weaver  
| Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan  
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Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand has provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING**

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*We Invite You to Connect with Zion!*

Join our daily text prayer: Send @1minprayer to 81010

Feel free to text/call Pastor Rob Schmidt with questions, concerns,  
feedback, or to chat at 989-297-1611, or email him at  
freelandpastor@zionfreeland.org

Find us on Facebook!

Check out our website at [www.zionfreeland.org](http://www.zionfreeland.org)

Zion Freeland's office: 989-695-9626

Our Saviour, Saginaw's office: 989-799-5470