

# **Zion Lutheran Church**

Oldwick, New Jersey



## **Season of Easter**

Communion Worship Service

# WELCOME!

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the booklet in the pews. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel and hymn numbers. The hymns are located in the red hymnal. Children's activity bulletins are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... social activities, meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless, feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world, and providing camp scholarships to needy children
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... giving 11% of our budget to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

## WORSHIPING IN THE SEASON OF EASTER

*Easter is the crown of the liturgical year and lasts seven weeks. Easter is one extended feast. The Ascension and the following Sundays are a continuation of the Easter celebration. The 40-day period of preparation for Easter is succeeded by the 50 days of rejoicing.*

- + **The color for Easter** is white which symbolizes victory and purity and is the color of the resurrection. White traditionally suggests gladness, light, and joy.
- + **The tone of the liturgy** and hymns are joyful. The use of the word "alleluia" (which means "praise God") and the Hymn of Praise return on Easter Sunday. We confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- + **During Easter, the Paschal Candle burns next to the baptismal font.** The candle is a sign of the presence of the risen Christ and remains burning through the Day of Pentecost.
- + The **Thanksgiving for Baptism** replaces the confession during this celebratory season.

# CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT ZION

## **TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...**

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. We claim the noise and activity of children as a sign of a healthy church. Children will always be welcome here!
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the part of the service and the actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH**

- The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.
- Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

# WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.**

**Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

**Cleanse our hearts.**

**Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated. We ask for safety's sake that the in-person assembly refrain from singing. A cantor will sing on our behalf.*

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Please be seated.*

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **FIRST READING**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING**

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to ...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please remain seated. We invite the in-person assembly to listen to the cantor who will sing on our behalf.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

#### **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition concludes with these words:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING**

*The offering plates will not be passed. You may leave your offering in the plates found at the rear of the sanctuary.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# **WE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE – THE MEAL**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take

away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat and be satisfied.

*Please be seated.*

### **COMMUNION**

*Come now and receive these gifts of grace from God. Please maintain distance from those not living in your household. Touch and take only elements for you, then return to your seat. For those worshipping at home, instructions for communing will be given by the pastor.*

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Wellspring of joy,

through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.

Satisfy the hunger still around us,

and send us as joyful witnesses,

that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

### **BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated. We invite the in-person assembly to listen to the cantor who will sing on our behalf.*

### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **POSTLUDE**



*Connecting People with God's Grace*

**Pastor**

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

**Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

Rhonda Rossi

**Director of Music**

Rodney A. Briscoe