

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 bags 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 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") returned 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 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing. You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

see weekly bulletin

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

see weekly bulletin

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDRENS' TIME

FIRST READING

see weekly bulletin

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

see weekly bulletin

The holy gospel according to ...

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

see weekly bulletin

APOSTLES' 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 portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,
and may say, "Peace be with you."*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Please stand, as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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 ...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



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



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.**

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand. Please dip the bread into the cup of wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (gold chalice). Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew. For those worshiping at home, instructions for communing will be given by the pastor.

COMMUNION MUSIC

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

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (11 a.m.)

see weekly bulletin

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.



Connecting People with God's Grace

Pastor

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Rhonda Rossi

Director of Music

Rodney A. Briscoe