

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.



GATHERING

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

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Come Now is the Time to Worship

Verse

**Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come**

Chorus

**One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now**

Ending

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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INVOCATION SONG

We Are Gathered Here

**We are gathered here in the name of the Father.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Father,
chosen by God's grace.**

**We are gathered here in the name of the Son.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Son,
chosen by God's grace.**

**We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit,
chosen by God's grace.**

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Karol Baer and David Lee Brown
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

O Lord, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you have in store for us today.

Cleanse our minds of all distracting thoughts. Cleanse also the desires of our hearts.

O Lord, you know us through and through. You know our sinfulness.

Father, we confess we have sinned against you, and against other people. We have failed in loving You as we ought. We have also failed to love our neighbors.

Forgive us for our sins of commission-

For those things we did and thought—that we ought not.

Forgive us also for our sins of omission

For our failures in thought, word and deed.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them.

So we ask your mercy once again, for the sake of Jesus.

We pray your healing power—that we might delight in your will,

And by our lives bring glory to your name.

Amen.

In His mercy, God gave His Son to die for us and for our sins.
For His sake, God forgives us all our sins.
Therefore, in the name of Christ, and by His authority,
I now declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins.
THEY ARE NO MORE!
Christ has taken them on Himself and removed them.
You are free!
Live in that gracious freedom and be healed in Him.

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Chorus:

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way
Kyrie Eleison ev'ryday**

**For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all,
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,
for life and for love for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

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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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God,

our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave

some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Help Us, O Lord
(Sung twice)*

Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.

Open our hearts to feel your word.

Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Here I Am, Lord RED ELW #574

- 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

- 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.



OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Everybody's Got Something to Offer

Chorus:

Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
in the name of the Lord

To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears (Chorus)

To the believers gathered here
the message it is true
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do (Chorus)

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.



SENDING

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

BLESSING

Benediction Song – echo song

(leader in italics; congregation in bold)

L) May the Lord bless and keep us;

C) May the Lord bless and keep us.

L) Make his face to shine upon us;

C) Make his face to shine upon us.

L) May his blessing go with us;

C) May his blessing go with us.

L) and give us peace

C) And – give – us - peace

L) In the name of the Father;

C) In the name of the Father

L) In the name of the Son;

C) In the name of the Son.

L) In the name of the Spirit;

C) In the name of the Spirit

L) All three –in-one;

C) ALL – THREE – IN – ONE!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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Account #73982207—6/30/2026

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers:
Dilshad and Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of February is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 1 from 11am to 2pm. The sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Advanced tickets will be for sale after church today.

Saturday, February 28, at 11 a.m. Assembly Line Pie Making Event for the Chicken Dinner at Emma's Bakery. Youth are invited to participate in making Apple Pies in assembly line fashion (with stations and groups working together to make the pies). Sign up to **bring ingredients** and/ or to **make the pies** on the sign up sheets outside Pr Gretchen's office. Pies will be sold at the Chicken Dinner Bake Sale on Sunday, March 1.

Sign Up by Sunday 2/22

If you have apple peeler/corer we can use, much appreciated!

Chicken Dinner Desserts and Bake Sale—Zion's Chicken Dinner is Sunday, March 1. There are two ways to help out for the Chicken dinner. Our diners will need some delicious desserts. If they are refrigerator desserts, bring them on Sunday morning. Sign up on the bulletin board by the door.

We will be holding a bake sale in conjunction with the chicken dinner. Bring your cakes, cookies, breads, eggs or jam to the church appropriately packaged for the bake sale. Please have them upstairs at the church no later than 4 pm on Saturday. Proceeds from the bake sale will go toward the parking lot project.

Please remember to check the sign up sheet for the Chicken Dinner. Both adults and youth are needed.

Set will be on Saturday, February 28 at 9am.

Lion's Fish Fry Dessert Table—We are again providing desserts to be sold at the Lion's Fish Fry. The fish fry is on Friday, March 6. We are selling our desserts for the early part of the day. Desserts need to be at the community center by 10 am. There will be some representatives from our church there to cut, package, price, and sell our goodies. Cakes, pies, refrigerator desserts, and crisps would be great. Last year, we earned over \$200 for the parking lot from this project. Again, the money will go to the parking lot. Please help us out with these projects.

Easter Garden flower forms are due into the secretary's office by Sunday, March 8.

AV Team Members needed

Join our AV Team!

It's much easier than you think! Can be 1 or 2 Sundays per month. If we can do it, you can do it! Talk to any of us.

Joe, Tim, Elton, Jan & Matt

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Sibley Foodshare	Parking Lot
2/15/2026	\$ 960.00	\$4,038.31	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 28.00	\$ 120.00

Worship Assistants

February 22

Usher: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Tim & Stacy Haggemiller
Greeter: Alex & Cassidy Battcher
Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark
Reader: Starla Schilling
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

February 25—Lenten Worship

Usher: Jane Scharpe & Dave Breyer
Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Brad Danielson

March 1

Usher: Carrie Bartlette, Alex Battcher
Francis Rowe, Jan Wark
Greeter: Sandy Bergs
Acolyte: Murdock Krueger
Reader: Janet Rowe
Altar Guild: Wayne & Ann Werner
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Office Hours for the week of February 22

Monday, February 23—2:30p-4p

Tuesday, February 24—11a-4p

Wednesday, February 25—2:30p-5p

or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, February 22	9:00a 10:00a	Contemporary Worship Sunday School
Wednesday, February 25	5:30p 6:30p	Lenten Supper Lenten Worship
Thursday, February 26	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, March 1	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

Receive...
THE FREE
GIFT OF
righteousness.
ROMANS 5:17