



**February 26, 2023 – 10am  
First Sunday in Lent**

**Bible Study** – March 1 @7pm -  
"The Chosen"! Season 3. Connie  
Pinkowski's home – 4E 26<sup>th</sup> St.

**New Member Welcome Celebration** – Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the  
10am service. See Pastor Bill if you are interested in joining us!

**Mid-Week – Soup/Supper with Devotions** – Come and join us  
the Tuesday evenings during Lent @6pm. Fun and Fellowship,  
Prayer and Reflection. Sign up in the Narthex!

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### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who makes all things  
new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that at times we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,  
forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another  
and to you who live forever and ever. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are once again forgiven and set free in the name of ✝ Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **HYMN: #320 – The Glory of these 40 Days**

**Prayer of the Day** - 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.**

### **God's Holy Word**

#### **First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>3:1</sup>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?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>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.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>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.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>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."

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

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



### **Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11 – Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Narrator:** Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him,

**Tempter:** “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

**Jesus:** “It is written,  
 ‘One does not live by bread alone,  
 but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

**Narrator:** <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him,

**Tempter:** “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.’”

**Jesus:** “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

**Narrator:** <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him,

**Tempter:** "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

**Jesus:** "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,  
'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

**Narrator:** Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## REFLECTIONS

### HYMN:760 – O Christ the Same

#### Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*A brief silence.*)

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness.

**Give us Your Vision and Wisdom to care for the flock that is under our care.**

Creator God, You tend to the needs of every living creature.

**Bless those who work in fields and orchards, in our rivers and our seas. That the world is nourished and the hungry are fed.**

Heavenly Father, You are a hiding place for all in distress. **Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone.**

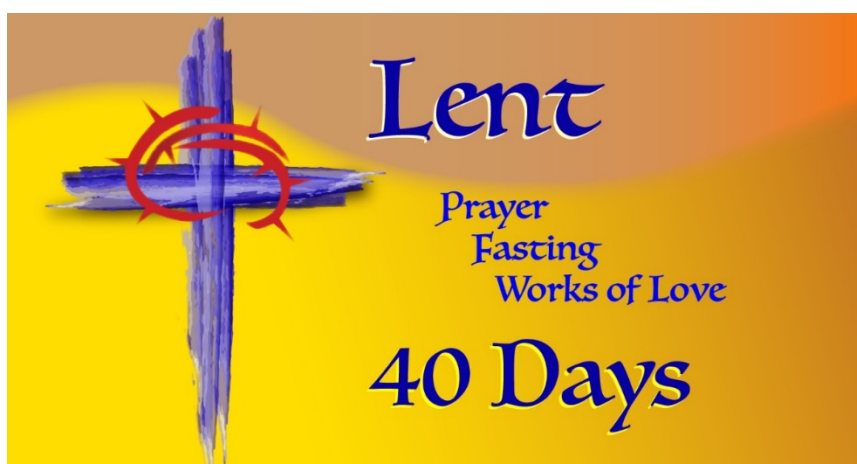
O Mighty Healer, in times of trouble, trauma, or illness, **surround your people with your steadfast love** (*especially, Names are spoken aloud*).

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. **Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

**Offering Prayer** - God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### 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** - Come and receive Jesus, our way and our strength in the wilderness.

*[Ushers will escort you to the Communion Rail to receive. After receiving the wafer, (GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE) you will be able to take a small cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) from a tray. Deposit the empty cup in the basket. Then return to your seat.]*

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

## I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



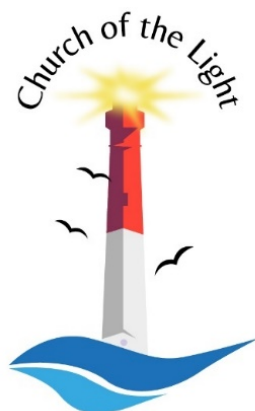
I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

**Prayer after Communion** - Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

**Blessing** - The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN – #314 – Arise, Your Light has Come!**

**Dismissal** - Go in peace. Love and Serve the Lord and one another! **Thanks be to God.**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Barnegat Light NJ

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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***"God calls us to share our faith in Christ  
with the community in all seasons!"***