

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 21, 2024
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Welcome

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: Amen

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you

Opening Prayer

Bell

Confession and Forgiveness (From 1 John & Psalm 32)

Pastor: God is light

Congregation: in him there is no darkness at all.

P: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

C: and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and prayer)

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

C: And he forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Gathering Hymn “God is Here” - With One Voice # 719 v. 1-3

V1 God is here! As we your people
Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts

V2 Here are symbols to remind us
Of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

V3 Here our children find a welcome
In the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.

Prayers & The 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

Opening Hymn: "Spirit of Gentleness" - With One Voice # 684 v. 1-3

Refrain Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

V1 You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains
From the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings."

V2 You swept through the desert,
You stung with the sand
And you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with idols and lies
Then you spoke through your prophets
To open their eyes.

V3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence
When the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people
On the rush of the wind.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 69:25; 109:8 (NIV)

May their place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in their tents.
May his days be few;
may another take his place of leadership.

New Testament Reading: Acts 1:13-26 (NIV)

When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry." (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For," said Peter, "it is written in the Book of Psalms: "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.'

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-16 (NIV)

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: “*Change the World*” - Pastor Al Alexander

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Communion

Please come forward during the communion hymn and take a cup of wine or grape juice and a wafer back to your seats. If you are joining us at home, please use your own bread or crackers and wine or juice. We believe the Lord’s Supper is a “means of grace” offered freely to all who seek Him. Please join us.

Words of Institution & Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

C: You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P: We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: “*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*” - With One Voice # 783 v. 1-3

V1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

V3 We do not live by bread alone,
But by ev’ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

V2 Ask and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and you shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened until you,
Allelu, alleluia.

Announcements

- April Mission: MN Adult & Teen Challenge
- Prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
Latest prayer list is on the table in the Narthex.
- Bible Study – Mondays 6:00pm; This Week John 12:31-13:20
- Need a ride to Sunday service or Soup Supper - Call Pastor Al
- Sign up for soup suppers and after church treats.
- Box in the Narthex; or give online through our web page or send a check to the church.
- Rev. Roger Livdahl Living Legacy Campaign. Information in Narthex
- Zoar has two canoes that can be borrowed at no cost. Reserve through the church.
- Memorial service for Linda Morris at Schroeder Town Hall on May 4th at 1:00
- Leadership Team meeting next Sunday (4/28) after church
- Care Partners “Spring Chore Days” Give or get help. 218 387 3788

Sending Hymn: “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” - With One Voice # 723 v. 1-3

V1 *The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
We go in Jesus’ name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God’s favor to proclaim.*

V3 *We go to be the hands of Christ,
To scatter joy like seed
and , all our days, to cherish life,
To do the loving deed.*

V2 *We go to comfort those who mourn
And set the burdeed free;
Where hope is dim, to share a dream
And help the blind to see*

Benediction Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Sending

Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen

Bell and Dismiss

**Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com • Church Phone: 218-663-7925
Al Alexander, Pastor 612-308-2185 • Music provided this morning by Lavona Czaplicki**

***Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex
or by clicking the link “Give” on the zoarchurch.org homepage.***