

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 25, 2026

Faith Five Week 3 (Talk)

Zion Lutheran Church: at home edition



Pastor - Mindy

Director of Worship - Seth

Assisting Minister - Andrea

Deacon - Dorie (DD)

Deacon - Michelle (DM)

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church, **a community of faith doing our best to embody the gracious love of God for all who hunger.**
- A very warm welcome to our guests, friends, and family, as well as those joining us online.
- If you are with us for the first time, a few things:
 - Everything is on screen, but bulletins in the back, as needed
 - Communion is open to all. Instructions will be given at that time.
 - A special welcome to children. We will have a children's sermon followed by a children's chapel for ages 3-9. We also have a staffed nursery, if that would be helpful. An usher can help.

Welcome to Faith Five Week 3

- Our focus today for Faith Five Week 3 is TALK, or how might we talk about faith. We are welcoming to the pulpit for the first time Deacon Michelle, who will talk to us about her own faith and how Psalm 139 has been a helpful tool in shaping her faith.
- And that is what we wish to model for you - how scripture can help you interpret your stories, as you talk about your highs and lows and listen for how God is speaking to you in scripture.

CENTERING PRACTICE

For our centering practice, you are invited to listen for how God might be speaking to you through Psalm 139. What word or phrase stands out to you as we hear this familiar psalm?

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD,
you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

***OPENING HYMN - ELW #759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart, strength to my fainting heart,

my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

4 When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream

shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

***GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



God is call ing to her peo ple God is call ing to us all are we list ning God is still
Love is mov ing through this bo dy Love is mov ing in this place breath ing through us help ing us grow

12

speak ing God is call ing to us all pour out jus tice o ver flow ing pour out mer cy
strong er Love is mov ing through this place

23

for this hour pour com pass ion on your peo ple let your Spi rit flow with pow'r

*OPENING PRAYER

DD Let us pray.

O God, you search us and you know us. Help us to know you in all the moments of our lives, when we sit and when we rise, when we walk and when we break bread together. In your name we pray,

C Amen.

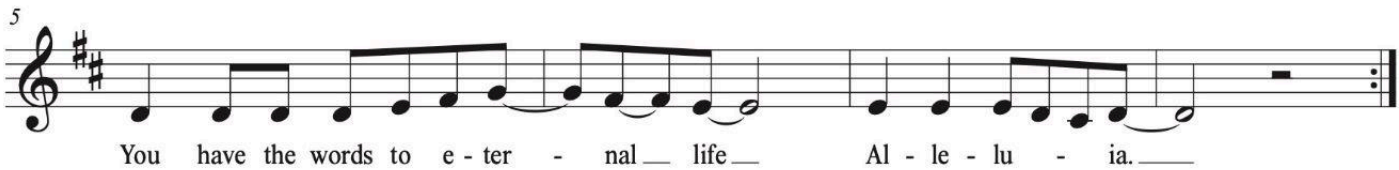
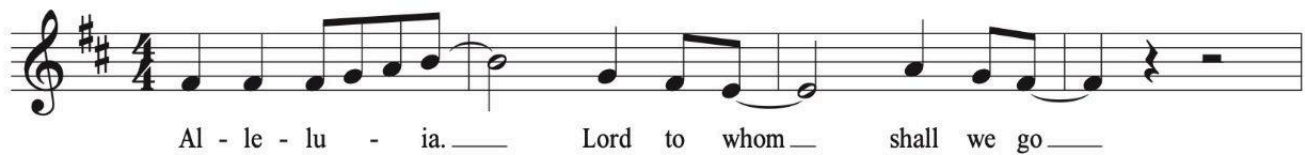
You may be seated, and we invite forward the children for the children's sermon.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON SONG - *This Little Light of Mine* & SENDING TO CHAPEL

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL - Luke 24:13-25

DM The Holy Gospel according to Luke . C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the

women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

DD The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON READING - Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

SERMON

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY - [Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day](#)

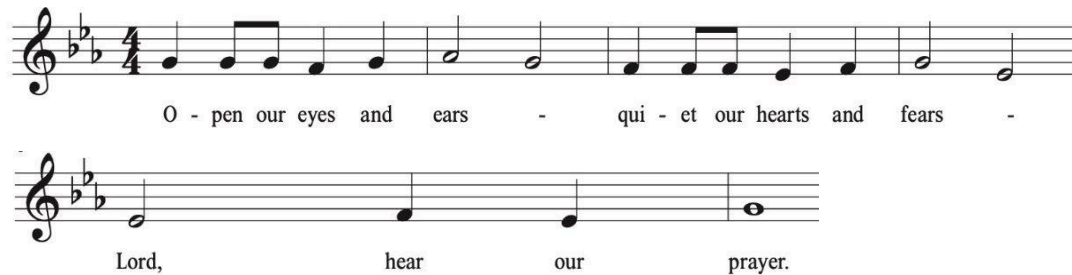
(Carolyn Hymn | Tune: Though I May Speak)

Emmaus-bound on Easter Day,
Two travelers walked along the way
They'd once had hope, but hope had died
When you O Lord were crucified

When you appeared beside the two
They could not see that it was you
But as they talked and shared their pain
You gave them hope and joy again

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

DD Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. At the prompt, *God of grace*, we will sing together this refrain:



A **O God, you search us and you know us.** We pray for your church all around the world, including our sister church in Peru, Cristo Rey. Inspire all deacons and pastors, worship leaders and board members, Sunday School teachers and Bible Study leaders to teach and preach your Good News, that all might know your love.

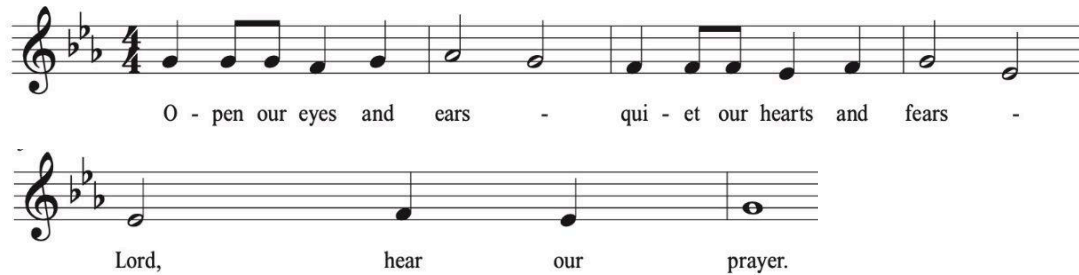
DD **If we settle at the farthest limits of the sea.** We pray for your earth and all of your creation. Be with those experiencing extreme winter weather this weekend and those who are without heat or shelter. God of grace,



A **How weighty are your thoughts, O God.** We pray for the world, that faithful leadership would reign, and for immigrants, refugees, and all who live in fear. Turn the hearts of all leaders toward compassionate leadership that serves the common good, hearing your call to love all of our neighbors.

DD **Darkness is as light to you.** We pray for all who long for your light in periods of suffering, especially Erna Lee, Olivia, Susan, Debbie, Charlie, Ramsey,

Family of Susan Wright, Khuk, all those living with unspoken burdens, and those we name before you now (pause). God of grace,



A Search us, O God, and know our hearts. We pray for Zion's partner ministries, the Zion Preschool and the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry. Bless their work and strengthen our partnership, knitting our hearts together in you.

DD Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PRACTICE

DD For our sharing of the peace, we are going to invite you to think about your phrase from Psalm 139, the one that stood out to you. For example, you might say "May God search you and know you," or "May the darkness be as light to you," or "May God know your heart."

So take a moment and reflect again on Psalm 139

(Greeting of Dorie's choice)

C And also with you.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ, who comes to us in love.

WELCOME TO COMMUNION

MOMENT OF MUSICAL CENTERING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, as disciples who are loved by you,
that we should with every breath
give thanks for your great love for us, made known in the coming of Jesus.

 You know the deepest parts of us

 Forming us in love, then meeting us along the way

 Making yourself known in this very meal and in this very gathering

And so with all who eat this broken bread

with your people all across the world, in every language and custom,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of pow - er and might

5 Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho - sa - na in the high - est

9 Bless-ed he comes in the name of the Lord Ho - sa - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER. [Mark Miller's sung version](#)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, in the language closest to your heart, let us pray, as Jesus taught us:

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

P Here at this table, God invites all who are seeking love. So come and feast, for you are very welcome here.

COMMUNION HYMNS

TFF #151 He Leadeth Me

ELW #629 Abide with Me

ELW #774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

TABLE BLESSING

P Now that you have tasted the goodness of God in bread and wine, let us be the body of Christ, blessed and broken for the whole world.

C Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING (FAITH FIVE)

DD As you go from this place,
may the God who searches you and knows you
journey with you in every step of your way.

May Christ, who walks with us on the road
open your hearts and your eyes
to recognize God's presence
in scripture, in conversation,
and in the breaking of the bread.

And may the Holy Spirit give you courage
to talk about faith with honesty and love
to share your highs and your lows,
to listen deeply to scripture,

and to trust that God is at work
in every story, including your own.

Go in peace, known and loved by God.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN - ELW #661 I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

DISMISSAL

Children Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. And we will!