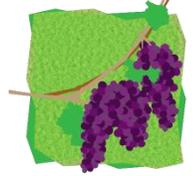


+Zion Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
413 Avenue D East, Bismarck, North Dakota  
Website: [zionbismarck.org](http://zionbismarck.org)  
Email: [zionlcmsbis@gmail.com](mailto:zionlcmsbis@gmail.com)  
(701) 223-8286  
Find us on Facebook, search: *Zion Lutheran Church*  
The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor  
Ben Ramthun – Vicar  
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgy: Vicar Ramthun  
Guest Pastor: Pastor Zellers  
Sermon: Pastor Marcis  
Organist: Kathy Rooke

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Growing in Grace  
May 2, 2021 – 10:45 AM



### AS WE GATHER

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ's vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament.

### ✘ EXAMINATION ✘

#### HYMN

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone" LSB 912

1 Christ is our cornerstone,  
On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone  
The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love  
Our hopes we place  
Of present grace  
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n  
The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n,  
Be with us evermore  
Until that day  
When all the blest  
To endless rest  
Are called away.

△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name. Text: Public domain

### Zion's 2021 CONFIRMANDS

Ken Albers  
Evan Fuchs  
Gracyn Granlie  
Ally Hilsabeck  
Wyatt Miller  
Paige Spomer

Jamie Bean  
Tiernan Glass  
Justin Hamkins  
Jack Hoberg  
Isaac Nistler

Abigail Fischer  
Dreyson Gleich  
Rayce Hermanson  
Andrew Miller  
Selah Schlittenhardt  
Dawson Unrath

## CONFIRMATION EXAMINATION QUESTIONING ON THE SIX CHIEF DOCTRINES OF SCRIPTURE

### I. The Ten Commandments

In the Law we learn what we should do and what we should not do.

### II. The Apostles' Creed

In the Creed we learn what God has done and is still doing for us.

### III. The Lord's Prayer

In the Lord's Prayer we learn what we may ask of God for our physical and spiritual needs.

### IV. The Sacrament of the Holy Baptism

In the Study of Baptism we learn of the covenant we made with God in our infancy.

### V. The Office of the Keys and Confession

The office of the Keys teaches us that God gave to His Church the power to forgive sins to us when we repent.

### VI. The Sacrament of the Altar

The Sacrament of the Altar was instituted for the strengthening of our faith in the forgiveness of our sins.

The catechumens will now be examined in these chief parts of Christian doctrine, for the purpose of setting forth that they understand the faith they are about to profess.

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Lift High the Cross" *LSB* 837

ref **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

- 1 **Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain**
- 2 **Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain**
- 3 **All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain**
- 4 **O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain**
- 5 **Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain**
- 6 **So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain**

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 34:8; 104:24, 31; 147:11*

Pastor: The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

People: **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

Pastor: Taste and see that the LORD is good!

People: **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

Pastor: O LORD, how manifold are Your works!  
**People: In wisdom have You made them all.**  
Pastor: May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
**People: may the LORD rejoice in His works.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

### HYMN

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus” St. 1 *LSB* 606

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,  
The spotless Lamb of God;  
He bears them all and frees us  
From the accursèd load.  
I bring my guilt to Jesus  
To wash my crimson stains  
Clean in His blood most precious  
Till not a spot remains.

Text: Public domain

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.  
**People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### ☩ WORD ☩

### INTROIT

*Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16*

Vicar: A little while, and you will see Me no longer;  
and again a little while, and you will see Me.

**People: I will extol You, my God and King,  
and bless Your name forever and ever.**

Vicar: Every day I will bless You  
and praise Your name forever and ever.

**People: The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Vicar: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD,  
and all Your saints shall bless You!

**People: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Vicar: A little while, and you will see Me no longer;  
and again a little while, and you will see Me.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

### Refrain

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for your glory.**

### Refrain

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

### Refrain

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
For You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father.**

### Refrain

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.**

OCP (Mass of a Joyful Heart) - Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

## SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Acts 8:26–40*

(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way

rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## BELLS OF ZION

“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”

## GRADUAL

*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Vicar: Christ has risen from the dead.

People: **God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,**

Vicar: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

People: **He has put all things under His feet.**

## EPISTLE

*1 John 4:1–11*

(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Romans 6:9, John 14:23*

People: **Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. Alleluia. If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Alleluia.**

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 15:1–8*

(Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.)

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Are My King"

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.  
I'm accepted; You were condemned.  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me  
Because You died and rose again.

### Chorus

Amazing love, how can it be  
That You, my King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true;  
It's my joy to honor You.  
In all I do I honor You.

You are my King,  
You are my King.  
Jesus, You are my King.  
Jesus, You are my King.

### Chorus

Amazing love, how can it be  
That You, my King, would die for me?  
Amazing love, I know it's true;  
It's my joy to honor You.  
In all I do I honor You.

CCLI 2456623

## SERMON

"Staying Connected"  
John 15:1-8

## CREED and AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

*(Drawn from the Six Chief Parts)*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Pastor: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your baptism?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I renounce the devil.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his works?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I renounce all his works.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his ways?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I renounce all his ways.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord?

*Confirmand:* Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmand: *Yes, 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.*

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

Pastor: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

Confirmand: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Confirmand: *I do.*

Pastor: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

Confirmand: *I do, by the grace of God.*

Pastor: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

Confirmand: *I do, by the grace of God.*

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Confirmand: *I do, by the grace of God.*

Pastor: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Confirmand: *Amen.*

*The catechumens kneel to receive the confirmation blessing and passage of Holy Scripture that is to be their life's motto and memory verse. The pastor places his hands on the head of the catechumen and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:*

Pastor: the almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Holy Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

Confirmand: *Amen.*

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty and most merciful Father, in the waters of Holy Baptism You have united Your children in the suffering and death of Your Son Jesus Christ, cleansing them by His blood. Renew in them the gift of Your Holy Spirit that they may live in daily contrition and repentance with a faith which ever clings to their Savior. Deliver them from the power of Satan and preserve them from false and dangerous doctrines, that they may remain faithful in hearing Christ's Word and receiving His body and blood. By the Lord's Supper strengthen them to believe that no one can make satisfaction for sin but Christ alone. Enable them to find joy and comfort only in Him, learning from this Sacrament to love You and their neighbor and to bear their cross with patience and joy until the day of the resurrection of their bodies to life immortal, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **HYMN**

"Lord, I Need You"

### **Verse 1**

**Lord, I come, I confess;**

**Bowing here I find my rest.**

**And without You I fall apart;**

**You're the one that guides my heart.**

### Chorus 1

Lord I need You, oh, I need You;  
Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh, God, how I need You.

### Verse 2

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more;  
Where grace is found is where You are.  
And where You are, Lord, I am free;  
Holiness is Christ in me.

### Chorus 1

Lord I need You, oh, I need You;  
Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh God how I need You.

### Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.

### Chorus 2

Lord I need You, oh, I need You;  
Ev'ry hour I need You.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh, God, how I need You.  
You're my one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh, God how I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
Oh, God, how I need You.

CCLI Song # 5925687 CCLI License # 1171585

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: **hear our prayer.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

#### Chorus

Create in me a clean heart oh God  
That I might serve You  
Create in me a clean heart oh God  
That I might be renewed

So fill me and heal me  
And bring me back to You  
Create in me a clean heart oh God  
That I might serve You

CCLI Song # 106855 Mary Rice Hopkins CCLI License # 1171585

“Create in Me”

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.

## BELLS OF ZION

“God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It”

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**People:** Amen.

## HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” *LSB 922*

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own.  
In My love’s baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—  
You are My own.
- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
What I can cure.  
Here you heard My dear Son’s story;  
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.  
Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.
- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Closer to Me;  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free.  
Here My Spirit’s power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you  
And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you  
And give you peace.

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