

The 5th Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.
Bold indicates congregational response.

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“There Is a Redeemer”* Green

Call to Worship

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community.

We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection.

We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, week after week we return to this space, because we long to see you. Like Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to get a peek at you as you walked by, we come to this sanctuary hoping to get a peek of your goodness, of your joy, of your light. So speak to us through these ancient words. Let us get a peek of the love that lingers here. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

First Reading of Scripture

Luke 18:18-30 NRSVUE

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

+ Opening Hymn No. 344 *“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

Words of Grace

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: When we fail to be righteous,

God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful,

God invites us to try again.

Again and again,

God moves closer to us. Again and again, God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love. Amen.

Giving from Our Hearts



It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially, there is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at zionunion.org.

+ Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

+ Prayer of Dedication

Righteous One, bless these gifts we dedicate to you. By your grace, which can do far more than we can imagine, fulfill your will for these offerings. Bless us with the prudence to act with your justice and righteousness in the building of your realm. Amen.

Second Reading of Scripture

Luke 19:1-10

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

“Bread of Heaven”

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer and The Prayer of Our Savior

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation No. 697 (3 times) *“Eat This Bread”*

Holy Communion

Invitation

An Affirmation of Faith

In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others. We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith. So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God’s help, may it be so. Amen.

Remembrance

Invocation

O Holy One, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Gather us in peace, hold us in hope, and send us in love. Bless by your Holy Spirit this bread and cup. In this meal, may we renew our commitments to the journey of faith. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Sharing of the Elements

The Lord’s Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of bread in your hand. Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice, and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and merciful God, we give you thanks. We give you thanks for this meal and our place at the table. Instill in us this generosity you so kindly give. Bless to be a blessing as we press onward to your kingdom, were abundance for all means scarcity for none. In the name of the host of hosts. Amen.

+ Closing Hymn No. 551 *“As a Fire is Meant for Burning”*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

“Sortie in D”

Price

Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent were written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC| sanctifiedart.org.” From the Lenten Series “Everything [In] Between”.

We commit ourselves...

to worship God

to form faithful followers of Jesus

and to care for our wider community.

We care as Christ cares.



+ The 5th Sunday in Lent +

April 6, 2025 + 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

SUNDAY NEWS

APRIL 6, 2025

Communion Sunday - We practice Open Communion here at Zion UCC. Jesus didn't turn anyone away; neither will we. Everyone is invited to come and share in the receiving of the bread and the cup.

Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Carl Ridder

Ushers: Sandy Stierberger, Jim Vemmer Greeter: Kevin Vorderbruegge

Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Ron & Pam Griffin

Camera Tech: Gil Bisjak Sound Tech: David Bean

(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

Usher Dismissal - An usher will dismiss you by row at the conclusion of the service. They will begin at the front.

Coffee/Fellowship Hour will be in the lower commons each Sunday following the worship service.

Historical Display - The Historical Display Case during the month of April features pictures and history of Eden Theological Seminary. Stop by the display to see pictures of Eden Theological Seminary.

Lenten Offering - This year's Lenten Offering will be divided between Grace's Place and Loving Hearts Outreach. Lenten envelopes are available by the offering plate for your gifts.

"These Days" devotionals for April-May-June are now available in the literature rack at the top of the grand staircase.

On Our List For Prayers

Health and Healing:

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Frank Fazzari	Myrt Dunigan
Charlotte Ellison	Kim Yenzer	Kevin Vorderbruegge	Sarah Berghorn	
Carol Bean (at Life Care Center in Sullivan)		Bruce Crane (at New Haven Care Center)		
Anne Parker (at Willow Brooke in Union)		Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)		Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)		Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)		Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)		
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)		Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey)		Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)		
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)		Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)		
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)		Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
Eileen Lischer (mother of Jeanne Lischer)		Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)		
Bob Peters (friend of Bill & Fern Dewert)				

Sympathy Is Extended to:

Armin & Norma Klemme & family on the death of their brother-in-law Gil Klein.

Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Skip Buehrle	Susie Andell
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)
Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)	Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)
Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Allen Coffman (friend of Shawn Pehle)
Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)	Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)	Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Britt Fassler (daughter of Nancy Kossmann)	Willie Beckett (nephew of Vicki Hooper)
Dasha Musante (granddaughter of Marilyn Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)

Various Concerns:

Prayer for our country and those actively serving:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Hunter Grafrath (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)

Ross Groenke (son of Cindy & Dale Groenke)

Adult Education Opportunities

This Morning - The JOY Adult Class meets this morning in the lower commons classroom. They will be discussing the book *'If God is Love Don't Be a Jerk'* by John Pavlovitz.

Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

This Morning – All Sunday School classes will meet from 10-11 a.m.; **Preschool** – ages 3-5 will meet in the Preschool Room (the nursery); **Faith Quest** – grades kindergarten-5th grade will meet in the Bible Max Theatre; **Confirm NOT Conform** – grades 6-12 will meet in the high school room.

Church Calendar – April 6, 2025 to April 13, 2025

Today -	5th Sunday in Lent
	9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m. Green Team (fellowship hall)
Wed., April 9 -	9:30 a.m. Called to Care (classroom)
	11:00 a.m. Lenten Reflection (chapel)
	12:00 noon Loops of Love (lower commons)
	5:00 p.m. LOGOS
	5:00 p.m. Lenten Reflection (lower commons)
	7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir (chapel)
Thurs., April 10 -	8:00 a.m.-12 noon Quilting Circle
	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in Use
Fri., April 11 -	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Next Sun., April 13 -	Palm Sunday
	9:00 a.m. Worship
	10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
	10:00 a.m. Zion Cemetery Board (chapel)

Lenten Bible Studies – Lenten Bible Studies will be held on the following dates/times/areas:

Wed., April 9 – 11:00 a.m. (chapel); 5:00 p.m. (lower commons)

Easter Lilies/Benevolent Donations - If you would like to donate an Easter lily in memory/honor of a loved one(s) the cost will be \$17 per plant. In lieu of a lily you may give a monetary donation to the Little Free Pantry/Union Food Pantry. Deadline to place order for Easter lilies is April 13th. You may fill out the form that is in the April newsletter or call the church office. Thank you!

Next Sun., April 13 – Next Sunday, April 13th there will be a Grand Zither Concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington beginning at 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. See the flyer on the lower commons bulletin board for more information.

Wed., April 30 – Meditative Drum Circle is back. Come join in community with others. Music experience not needed at all; only an open heart and open ears. Join us on Wednesday, April 30 at 6 p.m. in the chapel.

Joyful Noise and Alleluia Kids will resume in the fall.

Little Food Pantry – Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Food Pantry going! A list of the most needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons. Monetary donations can also be given – contact the church office.

Little Free Library – Just a reminder that Zion has a Little Free Library located close to the corner of Washington and Springfield Avenue. If you have any gently used adult/children's books please feel free to drop them in the free library or drop them off in the church office. Thank you!

Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: www.zionunion.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch

Minister to Youth & Families: Alysha Petry

Organist: Brenda Herring

Music Director: Dr. Karen Stafford

Administrative Assistant: Connie Thompson

Coordinator of Elementary Youth: Mandy Frick

Council President: Fern Dewert

Church Custodian: Joy Bradley