

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



First Week of Lent

February 25, 2015

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

During this season of Lent, our Back to Basics theme continues. Our midweek services will focus on foundational texts that speak to our Lord's suffering and death.

This evening, our series begins with the first prediction Jesus made for his suffering, death and resurrection. The Apostle Peter wants to hear none of it and rebukes Jesus privately. Jesus wants to hear none of Peter's rebuke; his suffering, death and resurrection are the reason why he was sent by his Father into the world.

But Jesus isn't done. He goes on to explain to his disciples that the road they have been called to walk is a difficult one; that they should not assume the crowds, miracles and general good times they have experienced will continue. The way of discipleship is narrow and hard; only a few find it.

For us, the message is clear: salvation is free, but it is not easy. Being labeled a Christian is easy; the path of discipleship is hard. Our sin, the world, and the devil make faith hard and obedience harder. Is it worth it? Is the path of discipleship worth the hardships, frustrations and difficulties that come with living (and believing) radically different from the world and the people around us?

This evening we will see that it is indeed worth any cost that we might have to pay to follow in the footsteps of our Savior, to live according to our calling, and to be God's ambassador's in the world he died to redeem.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor

www.zlcb.org
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Service of the Word

The Prelude

Announcements

(please stand)

Opening Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living 420

The Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

The Absolution (spoken by the Vicar)

The Prayers

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

(Please be seated)

Sermon Hymn: Come unto Me, Ye Weary

684

Sermon

The Offering

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. 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!

***The Recessional:* Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me**

722

The Postlude

† *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Paul Klemash & Mike Sterba
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Melanie & Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak Vince Kimberland, Michael Kroeger, Richard Quinlan
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian & Molly Oelschlager and Sarah Ali