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## PRAISE ABLAZE

MARCH 19, 2023 • 11:00AM • LENT 4

**Welcome!** We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened through the study of God's Word and empowered to live as His witnesses.

**Families**, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; a small area is set up in the atrium for children with "wiggles"; and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the rear parking lot entrance to your left as you exit the atrium doors of the Multi-Ministry Center (MMC).

**Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of the *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs and place it in the offering baskets.

**As We Gather** Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent and tries to get the crowd to ask for Jesus' release, but the crowd calls instead for Barabbas. The crowd condemns the innocent Jesus and demands that the guilty Barabbas receive a pardon. We are Barabbas. We are guilty and sinful and deserving of death. But we are also Barabbas in that Jesus takes our place, takes our punishment, and sets us free.

### Worship and Sunday Study @ Zion Lutheran:

Classic Services: 8:30am • Contemporary: 11:00am

9:45am Study/ Sunday School

Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Classic Services; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Contemporary

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**Jason Hoerth**, Pastor • 513-528-0309 • [jhoerth@zionlc.org](mailto:jhoerth@zionlc.org)

**Chris Graves**, Family Ministries Coordinator • 513-686-9137 • [cgraves@zionlc.org](mailto:cgraves@zionlc.org)

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Video/Welcome

*Preparing Hearts for Easter,  
Thirst for You, Skit Guys*

### Opening Worship

*Better Is One Day  
God Who Listens*

### Call to Worship

### Opening Sentences, Confession and Absolution

### Children's Message

### God's Word *(see opposite or screens)*

*Zechariah 9:9-12  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6  
John 18:33-40*

*(Children dismissed for Children's Church (CC))*

### What We Believe *(see screens)*

*Nicene Creed*

### Today's Message

### Offering

*(Thanks for your support of God's mission here – Children return from CC.)*

### Prayers & Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

### Song

*How Great is our God*

### Dismissal

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Zechariah 9:9-12*

*(The Coming King.)*

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*L This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*2 Corinthians 3:12-4:6*

*(The Veil is Removed in Christ.)*

<sup>12</sup> Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, <sup>13</sup> not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ...

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## **EPISTLE** *(cont.)*

<sup>6</sup>For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

*L This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 18:33-40*

*(My Kingdom is not of this world.)*

<sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

*P This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

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### **A HUGE “Thank you” to those that served to make worship happen today...**

Message ..... Rev. Jason Hoerth  
Children’s Message ..... Chris Graves, DCE  
Cont. Worship Ldr. .... Dyann Cooper  
Elder ..... Glen Brueggemeier

Reader ..... Abby O’Grady  
Tech ..... Matt Blankenship  
Acolyte..... Aiden McKinley

### **Acknowledgments**

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