

*First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026*  
*Zoar Church, Tofte, MN*

**Call to Worship** "Ride that Glory Train"

**Welcome** Visitors - Please fill out the Visitor Card and put it in the giving box in the Narthex

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Congregation: Amen**

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**Congregation: And also with you**

**Opening Prayer**

**Bell**

**Confession and Forgiveness** (From Psalm 51 & Romans 7)

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing. (Silence for prayer and reflection)**

P: Cleanse me and I will be clean;

**C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen**

**Gathering Hymn** "My Hope is Built on Nothing Else" - CCLI # 7189243

**V1** My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**V3** His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay.

**V2** When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

**V4** When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
In Him, my righteousness, alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne.

**Chorus** On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

**Prayers & The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

**Opening Hymn:** “There is None Like You” - CCLI # 674545

<i>There is none like You</i>	<i>Your mercy flows like a river so wide</i>
<i>No one else can touch my heart like You do</i>	<i>And healing comes from Your hand</i>
<i>And I can search for all eternity, Lord</i>	<i>Suffering children are safe in Your arms</i>
<i>And find, there is none like You</i>	<i>There is none like You</i>

**Old Testament Readings:** Ezekiel 13:3-4, Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! Your prophets, Israel, are like jackals among ruins

The Lord says:

These people come near to me with their mouth

and honor me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught.

**Epistle Readings:** Romans 16:17-18, 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV)

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 7:15-23 (NIV)

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

*P: The Word of God for the people of God*

***C: Thanks be to God***

**Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the  
right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the  
dead.  
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. Amen

**Closing Hymn:** “In Christ Alone” - CCLI # 3350395

**V1** *In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light my strength my song  
This Cornerstone this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled when strivings cease  
My Comforter my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

**V2** *In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live*

**V3** *There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

**V4** *No guilt in life no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

## **Announcements**

- February Mission: Wycliffe International - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
  - This week - James 2
- North Shore Living, Grand Marais - Worship today, 2/22/26 at 2:00 pm
- Soup Supper - Every Wednesday serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Zoar is looking for
  - A Sunday School teacher for one or two Sundays a month
  - Contact Linda at 612 817 8045
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Sign up to pray for one of our young people
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
- Prayer Requests - Form in seat back; box in Narthex or email Pastor Al
- Sign up for after church treats
  - Signup Genius on Zoar Facebook page and website
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of new puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

## **Sending Hymn:** *“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”* - CCLI # 22609

**V1** *‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His word  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
Just to know, “Thus saith the Lord.”*

**V3** *Yes, ‘tis sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just from sin and self to cease  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest and joy and peace*

**V2** *Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust His cleansing blood  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
‘Neath the healing, cleansing flood!*

**V4** *I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend  
And I know that Thou art with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end*

**Chorus** *Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!*

## **Benediction** Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen

## **Bell**

## **Sending**

*Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.*

***Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen***

**Website:** [www.zoarchurch.org](http://www.zoarchurch.org) • **Email:** [zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com](mailto:zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com) • **Church Phone:** 218-663-7925  
**Al Alexander, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Linda Alexander**

***Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex  
or by clicking the link “Give” on the zoarchurch.org homepage.***