

*Second Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2026*  
*Zoar Church, Tofte, MN*

**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**

**Opening Song:** “Come, Now is the Time to Worship” - CCLI # 2430948

**Verse**

Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God.

Come.

**Chorus**

One day every tongue will confess you are God

One day every knee will bow

Still, the greatest treasure remains for those

Who call upon you now.

**Confession and Forgiveness (From 1 John & Psalm 32)**

Pastor: God is light

**Congregation: in him there is no darkness at all.**

P: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

**C: and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

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

**C: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for reflection and confession)

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

**C: And he forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**Song** “Bless His Name” - CCLI # 4642356

**Chorus**

Come let us sing for joy

Let us shout aloud to our King

Come let us worship God

Lifting holy hands to bless His name

**V2** Lord we come with gratitude that flows

From deep within our souls

We rejoice in You

and we will glory in Your name

with a shout our lips proclaim

The praises stirring in our hearts

**V1** Lord we come to meet with You again

To worship with one voice in adoration

For You deserve our every praise

That echoes in this place

You're the worthy One

**Bridge** Every creature in Heaven and Earth below

Bless His name bless His name

**Ending** Bless Your name, we bless Your name,

we bless Your holy name

**Song “Cry Out to Jesus” - CCLI #4586106**

**V1** To everyone who's lost someone they love  
Long before it was their time  
You feel like the days you had were not enough  
When you said goodbye  
And to all of the people with burdens and pains  
Keeping you back from your life  
You believe that there's nothing  
And there is no one who can make it right

**V2** For the marriage that's struggling  
Just to hang on - they've lost all of their faith in love  
And they've done all they can to make it right again  
Still it's not enough  
For the ones who can't break  
The addictions and chains  
You try to give up but you come back again  
Just remember that you're not alone in your shame  
And your suffering

**Chorus** (And) there is hope for the helpless  
Rest for the weary  
And love for the broken heart  
And there is grace and forgiveness  
Mercy and healing  
He'll meet you wherever you are  
Cry out to Jesus (Cry out to Jesus)

**Bridge**  
When you're lonely  
And it feels like the whole world is falling on you  
You just reach out  
You just cry out to Jesus Cry to Jesus

**V3** To the widow who suffers from being alone  
Wiping the tears from her eyes  
For the children around the world without a home  
Say a prayer tonight

**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**

**Old Testament Readings:** Psalm 18:1-2, Isaiah 28:16 (NIV)

I love you, Lord, my strength.  
The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it  
will never be stricken with panic.

**Epistle Reading:** Ephesians 2:19-21, 1 Peter 2:4-6 (NIV)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 7:24-29 (NIV)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

*P: The Word of God for the people of God*      **C: Thanks be to God**

**Message:** “**Rock or Sand**” - Pastor Al Alexander

**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

**Communion**

*Please come forward during the communion hymn and take a cup of wine or grape juice and a wafer back to your seats. If you are joining us at home, please use your own bread or crackers and wine or juice. We believe the Lord’s Supper is a “means of grace” offered freely to all who seek Him. Please join us.*

**Words of Institution & Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.*

**C: You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

*P: We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.*

**C: Amen**

**Song: "Come to the Table" - CCLI # 7036352**

**V1** We all start on the outside  
The outside looking in  
This is where grace begins  
We were hungry we were thirsty  
With nothing left to give  
Oh the shape that we were in

**Pre-Chorus**

Just when all hope seemed lost  
Love opened the door for us

**Chorus** He said come to the table  
Come join the sinners  
who have been redeemed  
Take your place beside the Savior  
Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

**Ending**

Sit down and be set free  
Come to the table

**V2** Come meet this motley crew of misfits  
These liars and these thieves  
There's no one unwelcome here  
And that sin and shame that you brought with you  
You can leave it at the door  
Let mercy draw you near

**Bridge** To the thief and to the doubter

To the hero and the coward  
To the prisoner and the soldier  
To the young and to the older  
All who hunger all who thirst  
All the last and all the first  
All the paupers and the princes  
All who fail you've been forgiven  
All who dream and all who suffer  
All who loved and lost another  
All the chained and all the free  
All who follow all who lead  
Anyone who's been let down  
All the lost you have been found  
All who've been labeled right or wrong  
To everyone who hears this song

**Announcements**

- March Mission: Chosen People Ministries - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
  - This week - James 3
- Good Friday Service - 4/3/26 at 6:00 pm
- Easter Sunday Service - 4/5/26 at 9:30 am
- 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.

**Benediction** Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace

**Bell**

**Sending**

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

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

**Dismiss**

Website: [www.zoarchurch.org](http://www.zoarchurch.org) • Email: [zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com](mailto:zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com) • Church Phone: 218-663-7925  
Pastor Al Alexander 612-308-2185 • Music provided this morning by Dave Gustafson  
Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex  
or by clicking the link "Give" on the [zoarchurch.org](http://zoarchurch.org) homepage.