

*Third Sunday in Lent, March 8, 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**

**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** "We Have Come Into His House" - CCLI # 17212

**V1** We have come into His house

Gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house

Gathered in His name to worship Him

We have come into His house

Gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord,

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

**V2** So let's lift up holy hands,

And magnify His name and worship Him

So let's lift up holy hands,

And magnify His name and worship Him

Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name

And worship Christ the Lord

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

**V3** So forget about yourself

And concentrate on Him and worship Him

So forget about yourself

And concentrate on Him and worship Him

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him

And worship Christ the Lord

Worship Him Christ the Lord

**V4** He is all my righteousness,

I stand complete in Him, and worship Him

He is all my righteousness,

I stand complete in Him, and worship Him

He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him

And worship Christ the Lord

Worship Him Christ the Lord.

**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: "He Comes to Meet Us" - Marsha Hansen**

*He comes to meet us, right where we are  
He doesn't love us from afar  
The great I Am, the Morning Star  
Comes down to meet us where we are.*

*There's no need for pretending with Him,  
For He knows our weakness and our sin;  
And He makes no impossible demands  
As He extends His nail-scarred hands.*

*He comes to meet us, right where we stand,  
With smiling face, with outstretched hand.  
With love enough for ev'ry man  
He comes to meet us where we stand.*

*He comes to meet us, right where we live.  
All that we need, He comes to give.  
He comes to heal and to forgive;  
He comes to meet us where we live.*

**Old Testament Readings: Isaiah 35:5-6, 42:6-7 (NIV)**

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.

"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,

to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

**Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:1-4 (NIV)**

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

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

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

**Message: “Jesus Heals a Leper” - Pastor Al Alexander**

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: “He Touched Me” - Family of God # 628**

**V1** *Shackled by a heavy burden,  
'Neath a load of guilt and shame  
Then the hand of Jesus touched me,  
And now I am no longer the same*

**V2** *Since I met this blessed Savior,  
Since He cleansed and made me whole,  
I will never cease to praise Him  
I'll shout it while eternity rolls*

**Refrain** *He touched me, O He touched me, And O the joy that floods my soul;  
Something happened, and now I know, He touched me and made me whole.*

## **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)
  - James 4
- Craft Night - This Thursdays at 6:00 pm - Sloppy Joes served
- Semi-Annual Meeting - Next Sunday 3/15/26 after church.
  - Breakfast served.
- 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
- Good Friday Service - 4/3/26 at 6:00 pm
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Sign up to pray for one of our young people
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- 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: "In His Time"- CCLI # 25981**

### **V1** *In His time in His time*

*He makes all things beautiful in His time  
Lord, please show me ev'ry day  
As You're teaching me Your way  
That You do just what You say  
In Your time.*

### **V2** *In Your time in Your time*

*You make all things beautiful in Your time  
Lord, my life to You I bring  
May each song I have to sing  
Be to You a lovely thing  
In Your time*

## **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**

## **Dismiss**

**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 Marsha Hansen**

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

