

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2026
Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Call to Worship “Boogie Woogie Gospel Medley” - Caleb Beardsley

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 “The Love of God” - CCLI # 18448

V1 The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
it goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell;
The wand'ring child is reconciled
By God's beloved Son
The aching soul again made whole
And priceless pardon won

V2 When ancient time shall pass away
And human thrones and kingdoms fall
When those who here refuse to pray,
on rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
grace will resound the whole Earth round
the saints' and angels' song.

V3 Could we with ink the ocean fill
and were the skies of parchment made,
were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill
and ev'ry man a scribe by trade,
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Refrain

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure:
the saints' and angels' song!

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: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - CCLI # 27714

V1 *What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!*

V3 *Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.*

V2 *Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

Old Testament Readings: Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 35:5-6, 43:25 (NIV)

Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,

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, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.

Epistle Readings: Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:1-8 (NIV)

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

P: The Word of God for the people of God

C: Thanks be to God

Message: "Jesus Forgives" - 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

Closing Hymn: "White as Snow" - CCLI # 491917

*White as snow, white as snow
Though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know, Lord, I know
That I'm clean and forgiven*

*Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you I know that I can be*

Announcements

- April Mission: Global Health Ministries - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
 - Monday's 6:00-7:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
 - Galatians 1:11-2:16
 - Zoom only this week 4/29/26
- Soup Supper Wednesday's serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Last Bible Club and Soup Supper for season on 5/6/26
- North Shore Living - Today, 4/26/26, at 2:00 pm
- Church on the Rocks (Near Fr. Baraga's Cross in Schroeder)
 - Starts 5/31/26 at 8:00 am
- 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 - sheet in Narthex
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

Sending Hymn: "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" - CCLI # 17054

V1

*Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin
how shall my tongue describe it?
Where shall His praise begin?
Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free;
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.*

V2

*Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost-
by it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost.
Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty;
for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.*

Refrain

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,
deeper than the mighty rolling sea,
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a
fountain,
all sufficient grace for even me!
Broader than the scope of my
transgressions,
greater far than all my sin and shame!
O magnify the precious name of Jesus!
Praise His name!*

Ending

*O magnify the precious name of Jesus!
Praise His name! (2X)*

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

Postlude: “Boogie Woogie Gospel Medley” - Caleb Beardsley

Website: www.zoarchurch.org • Email: 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.***