

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 10, 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** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” - Family of God # 21

**V1** Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

**V2** Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

**V3** Come, Almighty to deliver,  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

**V4** Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
‘Til in heaven we take our place,  
‘Til we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen.

**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: "His Banner Over Me is Love" - CCLI # 28579**

**V1** *I am my Beloved's and He is mine—  
His banner over me is love,  
I am my Beloved's and He is mine—  
His banner over me is love;  
I am my Beloved's and He is mine—  
His banner over me is love,  
His banner over me is love.*

**V3** *He's fairest of ten thousand to my soul—  
His banner over me is love,  
He's fairest of ten thousand to my soul—  
His banner over me is love;  
He's fairest of ten thousand to my soul—  
His banner over me is love,  
His banner over me is love.*

**V2** *He brought me to His banqueting table—  
His banner over me is love,  
He brought me to His banqueting table—  
His banner over me is love;  
He brought me to His banqueting table—  
His banner over me is love,  
His banner over me is love.*

**Old Testament Readings: Isaiah 62:5, Hosea 2:19-20, Jeremiah 31:31-33, Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV)**

As a young man marries a young woman,  
so will your Builder marry you;  
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.

I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.  
I will betroth you in faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the Lord.

"The days are coming," declares the Lord,  
"when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.  
It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,"  
declares the Lord.

“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and  
give you a heart of flesh.

**Epistle Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 9:14-17 (NIV)

Then John’s disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your  
disciples do not fast?”

Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will  
come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the  
garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the  
skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into  
new wineskins, and both are preserved.”

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

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Message:** “*New Wine*” - 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: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" - Family of God # 634

**V1** *There is a name I love to hear,  
I love to sing its worth;  
It sounds like music in my ear,  
The sweetest name on earth.*

**V2** *It tells me of a Savior's love,  
Who died to set me free;  
It tells me of His precious blood,  
The sinner's perfect plea*

**V3** *It tells of One whose loving heart  
Can feel my deepest woe,  
Who in each sorrow bears a part  
That none can bear below.*

### **Refrain**

*O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus,  
O, how I love Jesus - Because He first loved me!*

## Announcements

- May Mission: Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - Monday's 6:00-7:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
  - NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK (5/11/26) - Pastor Al and Linda are out of town
- Interested in becoming a member of Zoar? See Pastor Al
- Church on the Rocks starts 5/31/26
- Bible Club and Soup Supper will return in the fall.
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Bible camp scholarships are available. See Pastor Al or one of the Leadership Team members.
- Sign up to pray for one of our young people. Thanks to those who are praying
- 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 list 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: “My Life is in You, Lord”- CCLI # 17315**

**Chorus** *My life is in You, Lord  
My strength is in You, Lord  
My hope is in You, Lord  
In You, it's in You (Repeat)*

**Verse** *I will praise You with all of my life  
I will praise You with all my strength  
With all of my life, with all of my strength  
All my hope is in You*

**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.***