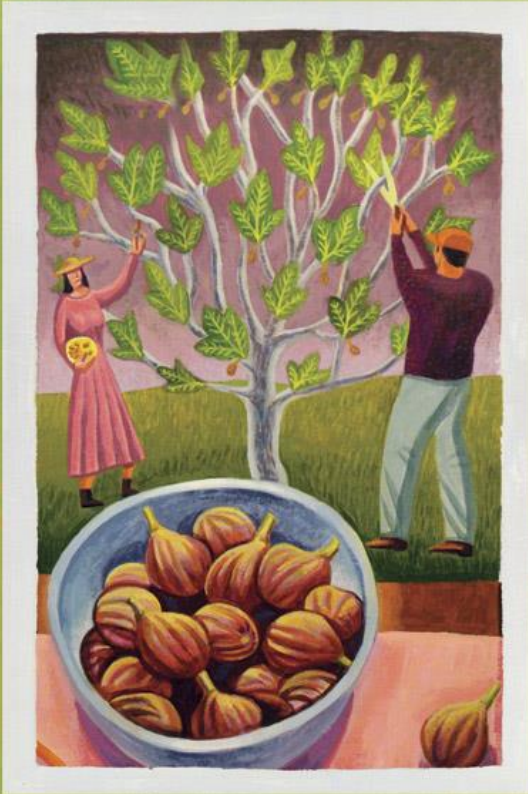


Welcome!



I have come
looking
for fruit

LUKE 13:7

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252
(570) 668-2180 - Email: zionlcof@verizon.net

Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.

The Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025 ~ 9:00 am
The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

*Congregation please stand

The Pre-service Music

~ The Gathering ~

*** The Confession and Forgiveness**

BLESSED BE THE HOLY TRINITY, ✚ ONE GOD, WHO FORGIVES ALL OUR SIN, WHOSE MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.

Amen.

LET US RETURN TO GOD, CONFESSING OUR SIN IN THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S ABIDING LOVE.

Please kneel if able.

COMPASSIONATE ONE,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

BELOVED IN CHRIST, GOD'S ARMS ARE ALWAYS STRETCHED OPEN WIDE TO WELCOME THE WANDERING ONES HOME. IN ✚ CHRIST YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. YOU HAVE A PLACE IN GOD'S HOUSE FOREVER.

Amen.

*** The Gathering Hymn** ***"There's Room at the Cross"*** Additional Hymnal No. 4

**The cross upon which Jesus died Is a shelter in which we can hide;
And its grace so free is sufficient for me, And deep is its fountain - as wide as the sea.**

(Refrain) **There's room at the cross for you. There's room at the cross for you.
Though millions have come, there's still room for one
Yes, there's room at the cross for you.**

**Though millions have found Him a friend
And have turned from the sins they have sinned.
The Savior still waits to open the gates
And welcome a sinner before it's too late. *(Refrain)***

**The hand of my Savior is strong, And the love of my Savior is long;
Through sunshine or rain, through loss or in gain,
The blood flows from Calvary to cleanse every stain. *(Refrain)***

*** The Greeting**

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, THE RECONCILING LOVE OF GOD, AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

And also with you.

*** The Kyrie Eleison** *(Now the Feast)*

IN PEACE, IN PEACE, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

FOR THE REIGN OF GOD, AND FOR PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FOR THE UNITY OF ALL, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

FOR YOUR PEOPLE HERE, WHO HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU PRAISE, FOR THE STRENGTH TO LIVE YOUR WORD, LET US PRAY TO THE LORD.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

HELP, SAVE, AND DEFEND US, O GOD.

Amen.

*** The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LET US PRAY:

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~The Word~

The First Lesson Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 63:1-8 Tune *"On What Has Now Been Sown"* No.261

O GOD, YOU ARE MY GOD. I SEEK YOU, MY SOUL THIRSTS FOR YOU; MY FLESH FAINTS FOR YOU, AS IN A DRY AND WEARY LAND WHERE THERE IS NO WATER.

To you, Lord, my soul clings, Held fast by your right hand.

LET ME SEE YOU IN THE SANCTUARY; LET ME SEE HOW MIGHTY AND GLORIOUS YOU ARE. YOUR CONSTANT LOVE IS BETTER THAN LIFE ITSELF.

To you, Lord, my heart sings For mercy strong and grand.

SO I WILL BLESS YOU AS LONG AS I LIVE. I WILL LIFT UP MY HANDS AND CALL ON YOUR NAME.

My voice I raise.

FOR YOU HAVE BEEN MY HELP; AND IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS I SING FOR JOY.

Both day and night to sing your might, Your love to praise.

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

(After the reading)

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Thanks be to God.

*** The Gospel Acclamation** *(Lenten Verse Now the Feast)*

**Return to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and mercy;
Come, seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

*** The Holy Gospel St. Luke 13:1-9**

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

(Before the Gospel)

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 13TH CHAPTER:

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the Gospel)

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

(Spoken) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Pastor Cindy White

***The Hymn of the Day**

“Lamb of God”

ELW No. 336

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him,
From Your side to walk upon this guilty sod And to become the Lamb of God.**

(Refrain) **Oh Lamb of God, Sweet Lamb of God, I love the Holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble King we named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *(Refrain)***

**I was so lost, I should have died But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod And to be call a lamb of God *(Refrain)***

*** The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker 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 to the dead. 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **The Prayers of Intercession**

LED BY THE SPIRIT, LET US TURN TO GOD IN PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH, THE WORLD, AND ALL THOSE IN NEED.

A brief silence.

WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO ALL PEOPLES. GRANT HUMILITY AND WISDOM TO BISHOPS, PASTORS, DEACONS, ELDERS, COUNCILS, AND CONGREGATIONS, THAT THEY MAY CALL UPON YOU IN MAKING DECISIONS. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

WE PRAY FOR THE EARTH, CALLED TO PROVIDE ABUNDANTLY. TEACH YOUR PEOPLE THE GOODNESS OF YOUR GENEROSITY, THAT IN SHARING WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN, ALL LIFE MAY FLOURISH ON THE PLANET THAT IS OUR SHARED HOME. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

WE PRAY FOR THE NATIONS, CALLED TO PROTECT THEIR INHABITANTS AND COLLABORATE IN THE WORK OF JUSTICE AND PEACE. FORGE BONDS OF COMPASSION AND MUTUAL CARE ACROSS HUMAN BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES, THAT ALL THE WORLD MAY HAVE ENOUGH TO LIVE. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED, CALLED TO RECEIVE YOUR COMPASSION ESPECIALLY FORREST, MARGARET, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, RALPH, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. COMFORT THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED THROUGH NATURAL DISASTERS AND HUMAN CONFLICT. AID COMMUNITIES IN COMING TOGETHER TO MOURN, HEAL, AND REBUILD. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

WE PRAY FOR THIS ASSEMBLY, CALLED TO WELCOME ITS NEIGHBORS TO THE TABLE OF YOUR GRACE. BLESS FOOD PANTRIES, COMMUNITY GARDENS AND KITCHENS, CLEAN WATER PROJECTS, AND ALL MINISTRIES THAT ADDRESS HUMAN HUNGER AND THIRST. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITHFUL LIVES OF THOSE WHO PROCLAIMED YOUR GOSPEL IN TIMES OF CHALLENGE AND STRIFE, AND FOR ALL THOSE WHOSE LIVES OF LOVE AND SERVICE HAVE ENDED. MAY THEIR WITNESS INSPIRE OUR OWN. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY,

receive our prayer.

RECEIVE THE PRAYERS OF YOUR PEOPLE AND DRAW ALL THINGS TOGETHER IN YOUR LOVE, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WHO LEADS US FROM DEATH TO LIFE.

Amen.

* **The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

And also with you.

~The Meal~

The Offering and Offertory

Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit ziontamaqua.com for our Vanco option.

* **The Offertory Procession “As the Grains of Wheat”** *(Now the Feast)*

(Refrain) **As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the
ends of earth be gathered into one in you.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love.** *(Refrain)*

* **The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: GRACIOUS PROVIDER, YOU SET YOUR IMMENSE TREASURES AMONG US, OPENING YOUR HEART TO THE WORLD. AS WE PREPARE TO FEAST ON YOUR BOUNTIFUL LOVE, DEEPEN OUR COMMITMENT TO SHARING THOSE TREASURES WITH OTHERS, THROUGH OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

Amen.

* **The Great Thanksgiving**

* **The Preface and Sanctus**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

(Sung) **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

We lift them to the Lord.

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

IT IS OUR DUTY.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: *(Now the Feast)*

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!**

* **The Eucharistic Prayer** *(Now the Feast)*

YOU ARE INDEED HOLY, ... WE PRAY FOR HIS COMING AGAIN EVEN AS WE CRY.

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS.

(Sung) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

SEND NOW, WE PRAY, YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THAT ALL OF YOUR PROMISES MAY COME TO US AND YOUR CREATION.

AMEN. COME, HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN. COME, HOLY SPIRIT.

(Sung) **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

THIS WE PRAY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND OUR FRIEND.

(Sung) **Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

*** The Lord's Prayer**

MAKE US BOLD, O MERCIFUL GOD, TO ADDRESS YOU AS OUR ABBA AS WE PRAY:

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

*** The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY, COME! THE FEAST OF GRACE IS SPREAD.

*** The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God”** *(Now the Feast)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

The Distribution

All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.

*** The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.
Amen.

*** The Post Communion Canticle** *(music on page 72 of LBW)*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

*** The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY, GENEROUS HOST, YOU HAVE SHARED YOUR FEAST WITH US AND MADE US NEW. SEND US NOW TO SET TABLES OF LOVE AND GRACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THAT YOUR LIBERATING LOVE MIGHT NOURISH THE WORLD INTO FREEDOM, IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED ONE, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Amen.

The Senior Choir Anthem “Oh, What a Man Was He!” – Althouse

~The Sending~

* The Blessing

GOD OUR TENDER PARENT, GOD THE CRUCIFIED ONE, GOD THE RECONCILING SPIRIT,
✠ BLESS YOU NOW AND FOREVER.

(Spoken) Amen.

* The Dismissal

GO IN PEACE. CARE FOR OTHERS AS GOD CARES FOR YOU.

Thanks be to God.

* The Sending Hymn

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

No. 98

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9 – Not Printed

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 – Not Printed

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

March 30, 2025 readings are:

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 22-23, 2025

**If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors, please sign our guest book. Thank you.*

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

THE ALTAR CANDLES are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of Sandy Mehalko for blessing Zion with her gift of music by Michael Haspe

THE BULLETINS are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of her father, Augustus Rizzardi by Mary Ruth & George Taylor

**Altar Flower sponsors are needed for April 6th, 20th and 27th.
Please sign up on the church bulletin board.**

Please remember the following in your prayers: Forrest, Margaret, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, Ralph Derr, and all our members who are homebound.

Welcome!!

Parish office phone number and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is zionlcof@verizon.net

Parish website is www.ziontamaqua.com

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Zion's 2024 Church Council officers: Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Amanda Hascin, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzingler, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Brittany Scalfani Mary Ruth Taylor, Michelle Valentine; and Shelly Woodring; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

This Week in Our Church

SUNDAY, March 23, 2025

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15 Christian Education
11:00 Confirmation Class
12:30 Lenten Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

7:00 Mid-Week Lenten Service/ St. John's

THURSDAY

7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY

4:00 Lenten Fish Dinner

SATURDAY

6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY, March 30, 2025

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament
10:15 Christian Education
11:00 Confirmation Class
12:30 Lenten Bible Study

Supporting Zion's Ministries

"Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ"

Received 3/16/25 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts	\$0.00
From Thrift Store	\$0.00
From Endowment (other)	\$0.00
Received for Endowment:	\$0.00
Received for Capital Campaign:	\$0.00

Received year-to-date for Zion's mission/ministries:

From offering/gifts/memorials:	\$24,420.67
From Thrift Store:	\$1,108.50*
From Endowment:	\$0.00
From Culinary:	\$1,900.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$27,429.17

* Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$2,217.00

Thank you for your gifts. Your gifts allow us to share the word of God and the love of Jesus with our congregation and our community.

Upcoming Events

March 28 & April 11 – Lenten Fish Dinners

April 4 – Blessings Thrift Sale

April 13 – Palm Sunday Potluck

April 24 – Hoagie Sale

Zion's Blessings Thrift Shop is on Friday, April 4th from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Thank you all for your continued support!

*Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.60, individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00, monies are due when you place your name on the list. You can also sponsor the Candles for the month at \$40. **Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial, this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form.** Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!*

***Palm Sunday Potluck** - A fellowship potluck will be held on Palm Sunday April 13, 2025, following the morning worship service. Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Room. Hope to see you there!*

Zion Lenten Fish Dinners - March 28 and April 11, 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM or sell-out. Adult \$13.00 – Children up to age 10 \$7.00. Take-Outs Available Menu includes Baked Haddock, Crab Cakes or Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Cole Slaw and Dessert. Combinations and ala carte are not available. Dinners may be pre-ordered on the website (www.ziontamaqua.com) or by calling 570-668-4451. Deadline to order dinners is **March 25 & April 8. Walk-ins welcome. Hope to see you there! Culinary Donations are Needed for the dinners...Cases of 12 oz. Bottles of water, please place them in the kitchen marked culinary. We also need desserts for the March 28th dinner. Contact Mary Ruth by March 23rd. Thank you!**

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES 2025 – St. John’s and Zion will once again hold combined Mid-Week Lenten Services at 7:00 pm. The service will follow the Holden Evening prayer from the ELW. This week’s service is at St. John’s.

This month’s Joyful Noise benefits Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks that helps feed 46 million people through pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other agencies.

Hoagie Sale - The Culinary Team is holding a hoagie sale; Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is on Thursday, April 24th from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order by April 20th, at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!

Zion Holy Week April 13-20, 2025

- ✠ **Palm Sunday**, April 13th, 9:00 am, Blessing of the Palms
- ✠ **Wednesday**, April 16th, 7:00 pm, Holden Evening Prayer
- ✠ **Maundy Thursday**, April 17th, **6:00 pm, (Please note Time Change)** Foot Washing, Communion, Stripping of the Altar
- ✠ **Good Friday**, April 18th, 7:00 pm, Good Friday Service
- ✠ **Holy Saturday**, April 19th, 7:00 pm Easter Vigil, Affirmation of Baptism, Holy Communion
- ✠ **Easter Sunday**, April 20th, 9:00 am, Celebration of Christ’s Resurrection, Holy Communion

