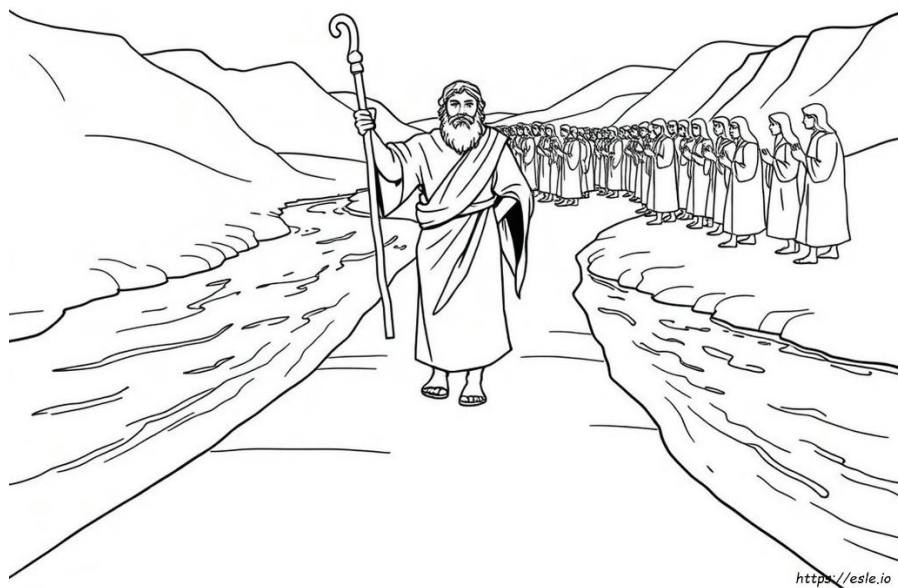


Valleys of Lent

Worship for the Sacred Season

Week 2 The Jordan Valley



<http://esle.io>

MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2164 MOUNT ZION ROAD + YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17406
www.mtzionyork.org + www.facebook.com/mountzionyorkpa
mtzionlutheranyork@gmail.com
(717)757-7626

Greetings and announcements

Prelude A Shepherd Medley

arr. Tate

PD: Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land.

Deuteronomy 34:1

Opening Hymn: (sung to the hymn ELW 640)

In ev'ry trying need
My Shepherd's voice I know.
With Jesus in the lead
To pastures green I go.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
His rod and staff shall still prevail;
His grace and mercy never fail.

PD: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will my help come?

C: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

PD: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

C: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

PD: Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.

With Jesus by my side,
The righteous path I take.
I in his flock abide E'en for his own name's sake.
He cares for me in all my needs,
Through each dark valley safely leads,
On verdant pasture richly feeds.

PD: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

C: The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

PD: The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

C: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

PD: Even in the darkest valley, no evil need be feared.

When wandering I stray
Into some valley deep,
My Shepherd finds the way,
Restores his wayward sheep
To him whose glory fills the skies,
Who came to earth in human guise—
Unto the Lord I lift my eyes.

PD: To you we lift up our eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

C: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy on us.

***Prayer of the Day:**

PD: O dear God, in this season of Lent, we look back with Moses at all the ways in which you have helped us in the past when we wandered away from you and we did not listen to you. Yet you forgave us and protected us and loved us and kept us as your own to this point in time. At the same time, we look forward this Lent, much like as Moses did, to the Promised Land of heaven where you will keep us safe and forgiven, protected and saved forever through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus. Help us to view the entire scope of your salvation story this Lent and always. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon: Pastor Debbie Mahady

Kids' Questions: What is something hard I've already gotten through and what am I still learning?

Adults' Questions: What is something God has carried me through and what lies ahead that I am still trusting God with?

First Reading:

First reading is from Deuteronomy 34:1-12:

L: Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. And the Lord said to him, "This is

the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

***Theme Song:** (sung to the tune of ELW 883)

Valleys of Lent before us loom
Broad vistas fraught with dread and gloom
Good Shepherd, be our help and guide
Safely we travel at your side.

***The Holy Gospel**

PA: The Holy Gospel According to John Chapter 6:27-40

C: Glory to You, O Lord

PA: Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have

come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

***Theme Song:** (sung to the tune ELW 883)

Valleys of Lent before us stand,
Welcoming to the Promised Land.
Cast dread aside; new views appear.
Come to the river; cross it here.

O Lord triumphant, bid us go
To march against the awesome foe.
Breathe on us, Lord; behold our strife;
Breathe on us with your breath of life.

Drama: 1 is Moses (Marty Hoak) and 2 is the Lord (Michael Maletz).

1 The first mountain I climbed, I remember, wasn't a mountain at all. It was a pyramid. A tomb. I was a child—a son of the daughter of the Pharaoh. And atop that great pyramid, one night, I looked out upon the vast kingdom spread before me—the fertile Nile valley, the great city of the King, the empire that was the envy and the fear of the known world. For a son of the daughter of the Pharaoh, what I saw was a land of promise...

...a promise that was not to be.

For I was born a Hebrew, though raised in the Pharaoh's house. And when I saw one of my own people being beaten by a cruel slave master, I struck...and killed...and ran...

...to another mountain. A REAL one, this time. The mountain of the Lord. Sinai. Atop that mountain, now a poor shepherd, I was given another vision:

2 “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings.”

1 I was given another promise:

2 “And I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

1 I was given a purpose:

2 “So come, I will send YOU to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

1 When the Lord’s will had been done...when God had led us, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, out of slavery and destroyed the mighty Pharaoh and his army in the waters of the Red Sea...then the Lord brought me again to the top of a mountain—back to the summit of Sinai.

2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.”

1 There the Lord revealed to us his holy will—the very mind of God. There, on that mountain, the great I AM made a covenant with mortals.

2 “...showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

1 And from that mountain the Lord has led me, by pillar of fire and flame...to this mountain. This final mountain. Nebo.

Here, I know, I will be buried, never having stepped into the land of God’s promise...

2 “A good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

1 Yet, from this height I see the land that God has promised—real...and beautiful...and broad. I trust my leading Lord. My SAVING God.

As I look out upon the vast land spread before me—the fertile Jordan valley, the great city of Jericho, the land that will be the envy of many nations—I am certain that this mountain where I will die is NOT a tomb. For “the Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

My promise-keeping God is true to his word. From this height, I see that even I shall enter a yet more perfect promised land. Across the valley of the final Jordan, the great I AM is coming to save me!

Sermon: Pastor Amy Northridge

***Hymn of the Day: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

ELW 324

Offering

***Prayers:**

A: “Give us this day our daily bread,” we pray, knowing that you give daily bread even when we fail to pray for it or forget to. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. It is with full awareness of your providence that we

dare to pray: Lead us and feed us, O Lord our God.

C: Bring us at last to the Promised Land.

A: Open our hearts and our hands to share our daily bread with those who hunger in this world, that they may join us thankfully in following you. Lead us and feed us, O Lord our God.

C: Bring us at last to the Promised Land.

A: Let strife and selfishness be removed from among us, and grant to the nations of this earth and their leaders a passion for peace, that all may share your bounty with glad and generous hearts. Lead us and feed us, O Lord our God.

C: Bring us at last to the Promised Land.

A: Let your Holy Spirit fill the hearts of those who do not know the Lord, and bring them to saving faith. To that end, bless the work of pastors and missionaries, teachers and volunteers throughout the world so that your saving Word may be proclaimed everywhere, and received with glad and open hearts. Lead us and feed us, O Lord our God.

C: Bring us at last to the Promised Land.

A: Keep close to you those in any kind of need or want, pain or suffering, and grant them the relief they long for. Lead us and feed us, O Lord our God.

C: Bring us at last to the Promised Land.

A: There we will praise your bounteous compassion and give you the thanks that are due for delivering us from our wanderings and leading us safely home, through the merits of your dear Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer:**

A: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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.

***Benediction:**

PD: The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

C: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

PA: He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength.

C: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall fall exhausted;

PD: But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

C: They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

PA: They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

***Closing Hymn:** (to the tune ELW 347)

In the steps our Savior trod
Let us follow faithfully,
Where the sinless Son of God
Went to set us sinners free.
Mark each footstep in the strife
Of the Way, the Truth, the Life.

*We are looking for a male and female volunteer to be our assembly representatives. Your responsibilities would include attending the spring assembly on Sunday, 22nd at 2 pm at Quickel Lutheran Church. And participating in the 2026 Synod Assembly which will be held on Friday, June 5th and Saturday, June 6th at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in York. Please let either Pastor or Ellen know if you would be willing to serve the greater church in this capacity.

© 2026 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved.

Good evening, and welcome to worship here at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. Whether tonight is your very first time in worship with us, or you have been worshipping here your whole life, you are welcome here. Whether you come with your heart bursting forth with faith, or you come carrying more questions and doubts than answers, you are welcome here. Whether you are UCC, Lutheran, neither, or both, you are welcome here. And whether you are joining us online or sitting right here in the pews, you are welcome here, and it is a joy to praise God with you this evening.

It is a special joy to be sharing this Lenten journey with our siblings from Mt. Zion United Church of Christ. There is something meaningful about gathering across congregations, reminding one another that faith is not meant to be walked alone. We have a rich history together and what a gift to come back together and share in God's praise.

We give thanks for our soup and sandwich makers this evening! It was delicious!

A few brief notes to help everyone feel comfortable in this space: what you need for worship can be found in your bulletin. All parts marked in bold are for the congregation to speak.

Restrooms are located through the back entrance, down the hall on the left. If you need the elevator, you can access it down to the end of the hall on the left.

Our passport stamping station will be in the back following worship. If you have not yet received a Lenten passport — there is no shame in asking for one as you leave tonight. Make sure you get the right passport. There are 3 variations: UCC has Sundays and Wednesday for the kids and the adults; the Lutherans have the Wednesday Valley series only. These passports are the way we are marking the journey together throughout this season.

As we gather during Lent, we have the opportunity to give back to God through our shared Lenten offering. This year, both congregations' Lenten offering supports Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, which is part of the ministry we share together through what we call Chop and Peel. Thank you in advance for the ways you continue to show generosity and care for our neighbors.

Looking ahead to next week, we will gather at Mt. Zion UCC for dinner at 6:00, followed by worship there at 7:00, which will also be streamed through their Facebook page for those joining from home.

Tonight, we continue our series in the Valleys of Lent as we enter the Jordan Valley.

Notice of filming and photography: By entering an event at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, you are entering an area where photography, audio, and video recording may occur. Your entry and presence constitute your consent, as well as your children, to be recorded for any purpose, in perpetuity, in connection with Mount Zion Lutheran Church including, but not limited to websites, social media, news, and advertising. Please notify the pastor or ushers if you do not consent to be photographed or filmed. There are dedicated film-free areas in the back of the church.