

# Zion Lutheran Church



## Answering Questions

Third Midweek Lent  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

# Welcome to worship!

This evening, our study of the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion continues as we take a look at three questions the religious establishment in Jerusalem asks Jesus and the one question Jesus asks them in return.

Pharisees and Sadducees alike questioned Jesus' faith and actions. Claiming at one point that the works he did pointed to demon possession, they now try to trip Jesus up in what he believes about things like taxes, marriage and the resurrection, and what the greatest commandment is. Now, as you expect, it is easy for Jesus to answer their questions—he is all-knowing—and to turn the tables on his accusers by asking them a question for which they have no answer.

As followers of Jesus, we also get questioned by the Pharisees and Sadducees of our day—people whose contradictory convictions are strengthened when they take us down a notch, people who are threatened by our faith in the resurrection of the Son of God, the forgiveness of sins, and belief in a sovereign, loving deity. But unlike Jesus, we do not have access to the storehouse of God's infinite wisdom when we are questioned. So, Church, what do we do when our faith is questioned (at best) or attacked (at worse)? What do we say? How do we respond?

This evening we will take a look at how Jesus responded to challenges to his faith as we look at ways to defend ours.

God bless your time in worship this evening!

--Pastor Duncan

*Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor*  
*Office Phone: 412-221-4776*

*Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967*  
*Website: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)*



**ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.**

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

# Service of the Word

## *The Prelude*

## *Announcements*

*Opening Hymn:* Hymn Sing

## *The Invocation*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## *Confession and Absolution*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

## *The Absolution*

## *The Prayers*

Pastor: ...Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

## The Psalm of the Day: Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God,

listen to my prayer;

from the end of the earth I call to you

when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock

that is higher than I,

for you have been my refuge,

a strong tower against the enemy.

Let me dwell in your tent forever!

Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*

For you, O God, have heard my vows;

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Prolong the life of the king;

may his years endure to all generations!

May he be enthroned forever before God;

appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

So will I ever sing praises to your name,

as I perform my vows day after day.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-46

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription

is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies having no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.' Now there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and having no offspring left his wife to his brother. So too the second and third, down to the seventh. After them all, the woman died. In the resurrection, therefore, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had her."

But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?

If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon Hymn:*** Glory Be to Jesus

433

***Sermon***

***The Offering***

***The Lord's Prayer***

***Benediction***

**Pastor:** Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People:** **Amen!**

***The Recessional: Reverence*** Christ, Mighty Savior

881

***The Postlude***

## † *Service Participants* †

Pastor:	Rev. Duncan McLellan
Organist:	Sandra Quinlan
Elders:	Paul Klemash & Shane Bryant
Acolyte	Elder
Ushers:	Melanie Becker, Bill Becker, Shane Bryant, Michael Kozak, Vince Kimberland, Bill Koester, Loren Ludeman, Richard Quinlan
Altar Guild:	Janet, Marian Oelschlager & Sarah Ali