

Acts 8:26-40 NIV

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁷ ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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1 John 4:1-11 NIV

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit

that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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John 15:1-8 NIV

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

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**ZION
Lutheran Church**

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Kalamazoo, MI
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zionkazoo.org

**FRIENDS OF
JESUS
Preschool**

Senior Pastor
Mike Saylor

**Director of
Christian Ed**
Aaron Grube

Preschool Director
Jen LaPorte

**Office
Administrators**
Brenna Harrington
Debbie Kipp

Saturday Worship
5:30pm

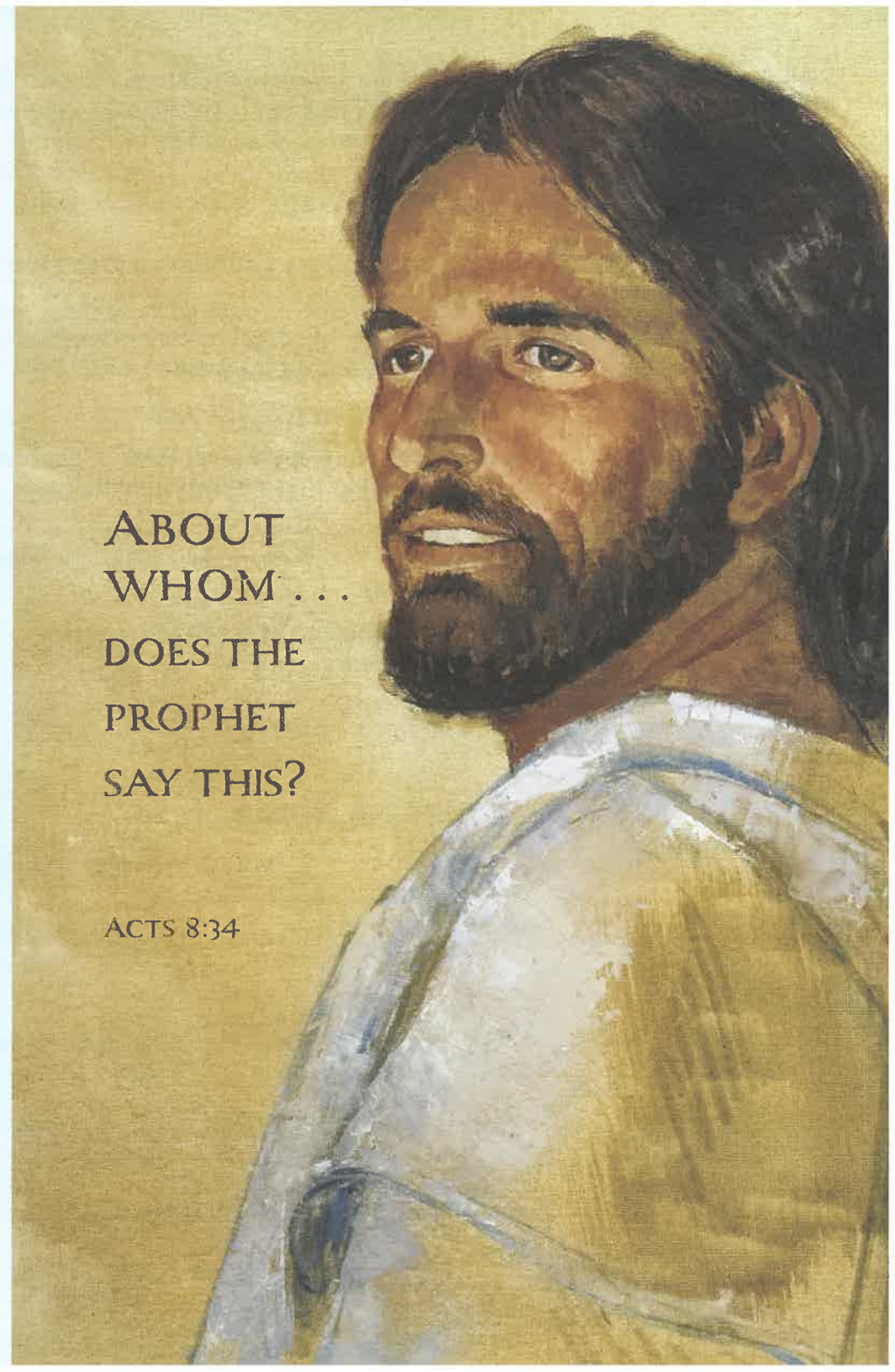
Sunday Worship
8:00am and 10:30am

**Sunday School and
Bible Study**
9:15am

Radio Broadcast
Sunday @ 9:30am
WKZO AM 590
106.9 FM

ABOUT
WHOM . . .
DOES THE
PROPHET
SAY THIS?

ACTS 8:34



About the Cover: The Good Shepherd does not withhold His own life for His sheep. He laid down His life on Good Friday as a sacrifice for our sins in order to take it up again on Easter Sunday. He did it all of His own authority for us. Therefore, we know that when He takes our lives up like the Good Shepherd that He is, we are in good hands that will carry us safely to eternal life.

WELCOME to Zion! May God bless your time with us today!

- Children are welcome in worship! Should parents need quiet time for their child, please utilize the Gathering Place behind rear of sanctuary. There you will find comfortable seating and a broadcast of the worship service.
- Baby changing tables are located in both restrooms.
- Our hymnal (Lutheran Book of Worship) has separate pages numbers for the liturgy in the front of the hymnal and the hymns in the back.
- As a baptized Christian who believes in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion and the forgiveness this gift offers, you are invited to join in this sacred meal.
- For those unable to consume alcohol, red grape juice is available in the center cups of the communion trays.

SERVING TODAY

Worship Leader	Pastor Mike Saylor	
Organist	Roxanne Nieboer	
Cantor	8am – Dennis O'Brien	10:30am – Debbie Kipp
Communion Assistants	8am – TBD	10:30am – Aaron Grube
Lector	8am – TBD	10:30am – Janis Dinda
Ushers	8am – Dave Newman Troy Cosgrove	10:30am – Steve Nuyen Dennis O' Brien Brent Butler
Alter Ministry	8am – Joe Zerbel Larry Zerbel	10:30am – Nicki Klein Dee Wentzel
Acolytes	8am – Hayden Williams	10:30am – Mark Skuratowicz

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rite of Confirmation

April 28, 2024

PRELUDE **Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain**

WELCOME

HYMN #459 **O Holy Spirit, Enter In**

INVOCATION

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

R: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness. R: **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.** L: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit R: **Amen.**

KYRIE



pp: 57-58

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord R: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. R: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. R: **LORD, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. R: **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE



pp: 60-61

R: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be**

people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

SALUTATION

L: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. R: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – (See *back cover*)

HYMN #315 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

SERMON

HYMN #522 Come, Thou Almighty King

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

P: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Your faith family will join you in this profession of our baptismal faith.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R: I do

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

R: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R: 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.

P: Confirmands, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

CONFIRMANDS: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these lives your own. You forgave them their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in them your gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

[as each confirmand's verse is read, they kneel for the blessing confirming their faith]

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in (name) the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm his/her faith, guide his/her life, empower him/her in his/her serving, give him/her patience in suffering, and bring him/her to life everlasting. R: Amen

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

p.66

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all: unite them with

the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH p.65

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

(each petition ends) L: Lord in your mercy **R: Hear our prayer**

L: Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray. **R: Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER p.71

R: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION p.69

L: In the night that our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LAMB OF GOD  p.72

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

(for those allergic to wine, grape juice is in the red cups)

BENEDICTION p.74

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace!

R: Amen.

L: Go in peace! Serve the Lord! **R: Thanks be to God. Amen!**

HYMN #261 On What Has Now Been Sown

POSTLUDE: This Joyful Eastertide

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Prelude:

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain", by W. Held. ©1975 Concordia Publishing House.

Offering:

"Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us" by P. Manz. ©1962 Concordia Publishing House.

Postlude: "This Joyful Eastertide" by C. Callahan. ©1993 MorningStar Music Publishers.



Tues, Apr 30	10:00am	Pastor Brelje Bible Study
Sat May 11	9:00am	Church Dumpster Cleanout
Sat May 18	8:30am	Mission Roadmap Weekend w/ Greg Finke
Thur May 23	6:00pm	FOJ "Moving Up; Moving On" graduation

SYMBOL IN THE WINDOW: The enemies of the church tried to destroy John by putting poison in the communion cup. You will find John's symbol on the New Testament side, first panel on the right. Here you will see the communion cup with a green snake in it. There is another symbol for John in our window. On the New Testament side, fourth panel from the right you will see two figures at the top. John is the figure on the right as you see it. Below this figure is an eagle, John's symbol.