

# Through Zion's Window

April 2023

## Psalm 22

<sup>1</sup> **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

<sup>3</sup> **Yet You are holy**, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> In You our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> To You they cried, and were saved; in You they trusted, and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

<sup>8</sup> 'Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!'

<sup>9</sup> **Yet it was You** who took me from the womb;

You kept me safe on my mother's breast.

<sup>10</sup> On You I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me You have been my God.

<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup> they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup> my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.<sup>16</sup> For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

<sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup> they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup> **But you, O LORD**, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

<sup>23</sup> **You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;**

**stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

<sup>24</sup> **For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;**

**he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup> **From you comes my praise in the great congregation;**

**my vows I will pay before those who fear him.**

<sup>26</sup> **The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.**

**May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;**

**and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> **To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**  
<sup>30</sup> **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**  
<sup>31</sup> **and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Psalm 22 is quite a long Psalm, but oh so good...

The psalmist starts out in quite a bleak state, crying out to the Lord in distress. Mourning their circumstance. As a worm...Yet! They recognize the sovereignty of God and see passed circumstances where He has come through and protected them. They finish the Psalm in praise and testimony. They call on others to also proclaim the goodness of the Lord and remember His faithfulness.

It is these same beginning words that Jesus spoke while hanging on the cross. In darkness, in pain, in death, His circumstances couldn't have been worse. Jesus hung as a spectacle, while soldiers mocked and divided his clothes. His body bruised and beaten, scourged and scorned. So many of the words in Psalm 22 reflect Jesus' final moments seen in Matthew 27 starting in verse 27.

When we read this Psalm, this season, please put yourself in that moment at the Crucifixion, picture the Lord Jesus, fully man and fully God, crying out to the Father in utter despair. Yet! He knows the Father's faithfulness. He knows the cup he was called to drink from. He wept in the Garden of Gethsemane asking for another way....YET! He knew he must go to the cross in order to redeem us! He suffered unspeakable pain and despair for our sake.

As you suffer in the day to day, do you feel like a worm sometimes? Do "dogs and lions" encircle you? Is illness and pain lurking in the edges of your life? Do you feel forsaken? Do you relate a little to the Psalmist? If so, can you also recall a time where God was faithful before? Cancer may steal family members. Pain may attack the bones. Death may lurk in the shadows. Yet, God is faithful. He has restored, recovered, redeemed.

Pain and loss are sadly normal circumstances here on the earth. But God is not far away! Just as He used the death of Jesus to restore us to Himself, He has a plan to restore all of creation to perfection as it was before the fall. Someday, the pains of this life will be no more. Someday, tears and pain will be distant memories. Till then, may we reflect on the testimony of "past positives". Think back to a time where God was faithful. Did He protect, did He restore, did He heal, did He deliver? May we have the mind of the Psalmist and close out every sad story with a "yet God has done \_\_\_\_\_, and He will do far more in the age to come." Take heart, hold fast, and testify to His faithfulness from generation to generation!



**Church Council Minutes: We will not be posting March's council Minutes until they are approved by council at next month's meeting. Moving forward minutes will be added to the newsletter from the month before the last meeting. There were no minutes from February.**



### Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm at Cross

Good Friday: 7:00pm at Zion with Holy Name

Easter Sunday: 8:30am at Zion and 10:30am at Cross



### Adult Education



Adult Education will be from 10:00-11:30 at Zion, every 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Now is a great time to join in! Zoom attendance is also an option if needed. Contact Pastor or the office to get set-up with a link. All are welcome! We are currently doing a text study on the weekly scriptures, readings are available in the narthex.

Note: There will be no Class on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday School will be held sometime in April. Stay tuned for more details.



For ordinary announcements, notes, or updates the best way to contact the church is via phone or email. Adeline is in the Zion office on Wednesdays. She is also in the office at Cross on Thursdays. Contact info is below:

Church Number: 920-474-7234

Office Email: [crosszionparish@outlook.com](mailto:crosszionparish@outlook.com)

Or: [zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com](mailto:zionashippun@wi.twcbc.com)

\*\*\*Both emails are valid and go to the same inbox.

If it is an emergency and you need immediate assistance from the office, please call or text Pastor on his cell at 262-490-8737. If he doesn't answer right away, please leave a voicemail. Thank you!



Pastor will be at Whelan's Fridays from 10-12. Join him for fellowship and conversation. All are welcome! In the event of any changes Pastor will update you via Facebook.

Note: There will be no gathering on Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

We will be providing coffee each week after worship. If you would like to bring in treats, please do.



If you have Easter lilies or Spring flowers that you would like to share for our Easter garden, please bring them to Church by 9am on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! – Sincerely, Cindy

Please  
Pray  
for...



Ellen Braunschweig  
Peyton Wolter  
Tom & Donna Meotke  
Ross & Jacob Kopfer  
Patrick Jones  
Shirley Koeppel  
Marlee Smith  
Carol Schuett  
Larry Rather  
Melissa S.  
Mike Johnson  
Bernice (Bede Zwieg's sister)  
Judy Wolter

If you are a knitter or crocheter and would like to help out, Zion is resuming our prayer shawl ministry. Directions are attached at the back of the newsletter. This ministry is coordinated by our Missions Committee via Christine Seidschlag.





On Behalf of the Red Cross Blood Mobile staff and coordinators, we would like to say thank you to Zion Members. On Monday, March 13th they received 74 blood donations at the Ashippun Town Hall. Thank you to all that donated blood, baked desserts, and volunteered in the canteen. Your help and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Natalie and Christine Missions Committee

Zion will be volunteering at Bread and Roses on Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details regarding sign-up sheets. Thank you!



Zion will be holding a Fellowship Breakfast on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It will start at 8:30am. Please RSVP with Chris Siedschlag at (920) 545-8439. Thank you!