



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany, Jan. 29, 2023, at 10 a.m.
Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church & via Zoom

Welcome friends and guests: Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Worship Service: In God's boundless diversity, we are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, fill out a yellow guest card and put it in the offering so we can welcome you. Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, treats, and good conversation.

Holy Communion: The Sacrament is offered to all worshipping with us. Zoom congregants, have your bread/wafer and juice/wine ready. Those worshipping in person may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing instead.

Other Information: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary, our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Vicar Lisa Rygiel at the church (719-846-7785) or contact her via email: zionsluth@gmail.com or Ischatzr@gmail.com. Further information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Gathering of Prayers and Call to Worship

Call to Worship

Blessed are the poor in spirit, the downtrodden and despairing,

They will rejoice in God's reign forever.

Blessed are those who mourn, who are grieving

They will be comforted in God's reign forever.

Blessed are the ones who seek justice and righteousness

They will find it in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we when we love our neighbors and seek their needs

We will live in God's reign forever.

Blessed are we all when we seek to serve others in God's name.

Let us worship together, serving one another and serving our Mighty God.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

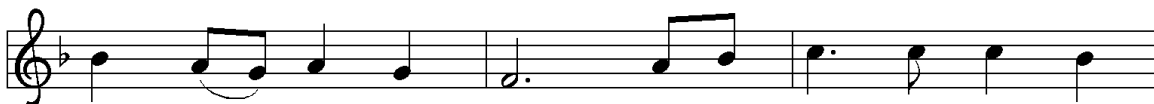
Gathering Hymn: #641 *All Are Welcome*



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another...

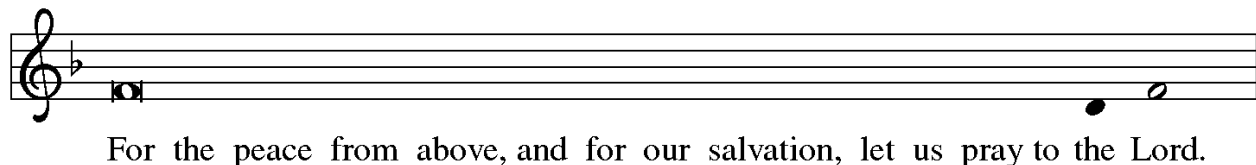
Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

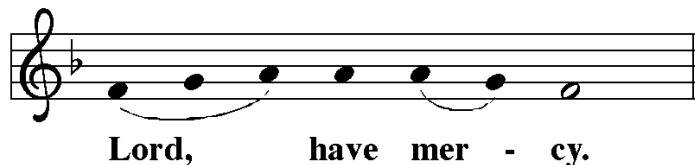
Kyrie



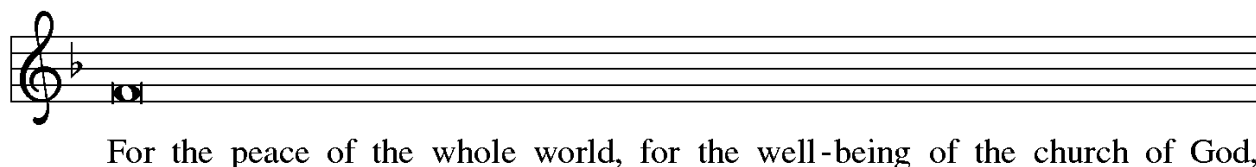
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



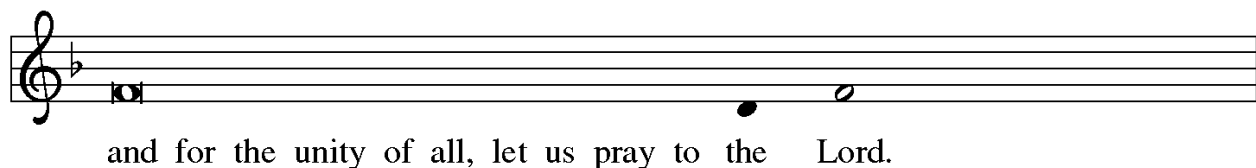
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



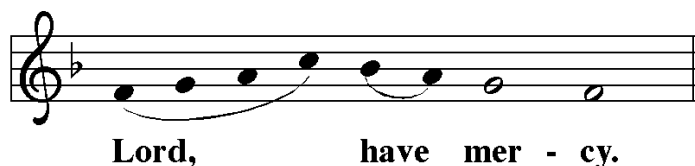
Lord, have mer - cy.



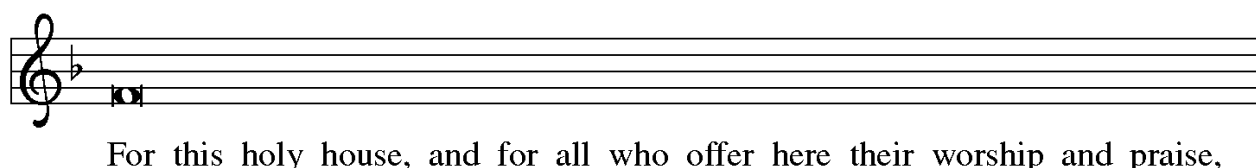
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



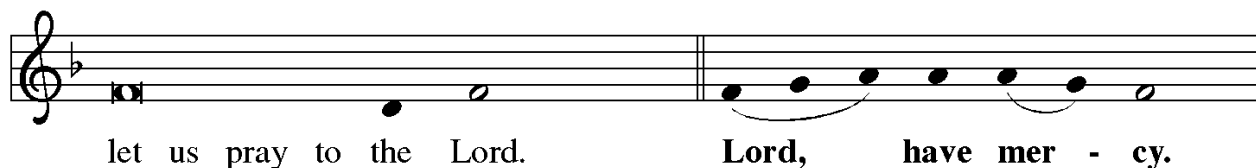
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



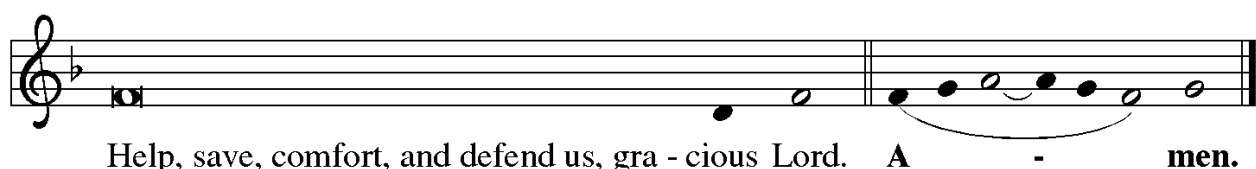
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Children's Message

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 15

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3rd Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4th Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5th Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6th Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7th Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8th Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9th Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10th Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11th Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.


12th Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**


Sermon -- Vicar Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #728 *Blest Are They*

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
 All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of the People

Your response to "Merciful God" is "*Receive Our Prayer*"
Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need especially we pray for...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place especially we pray for...Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared friendship. Please share Christ's Peace.

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory Hymn: #448 *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now*, verse 4



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash-es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

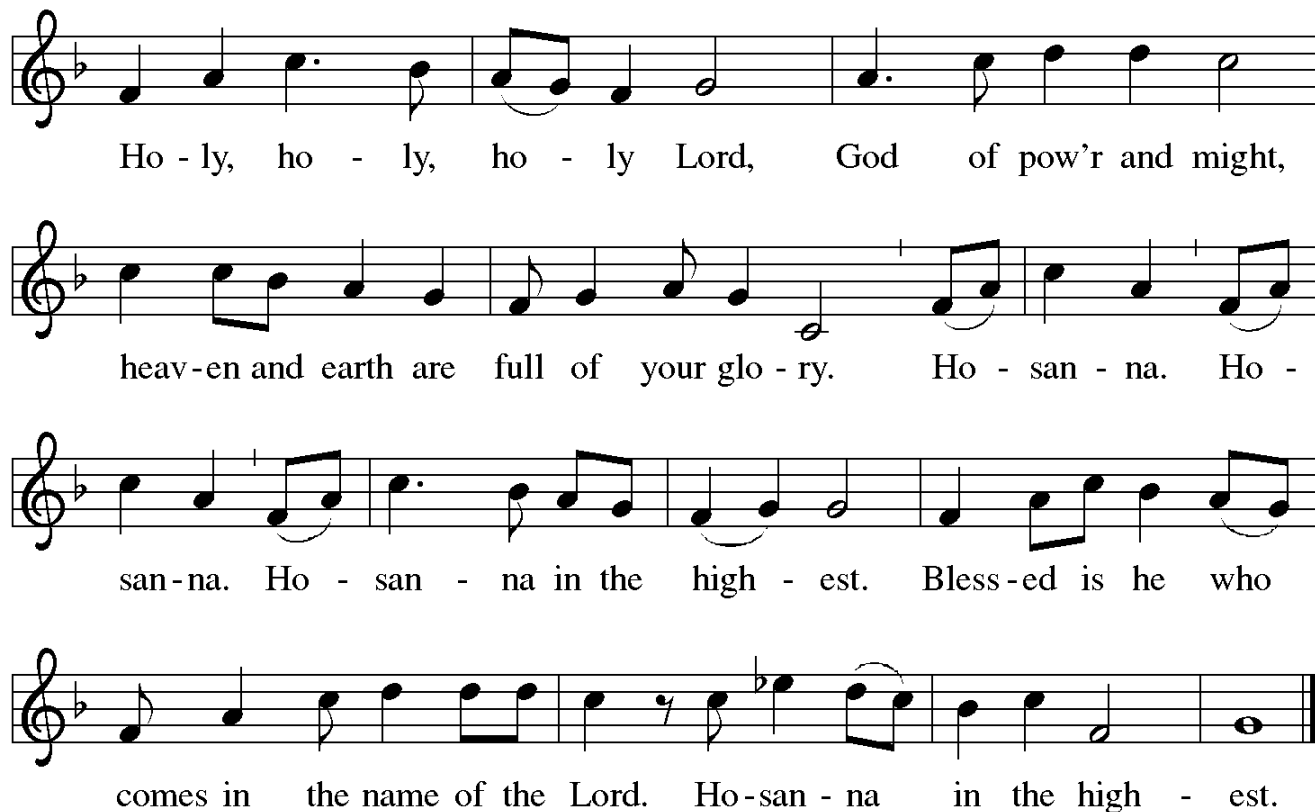
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

Again, 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.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

Lord's Prayer

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.

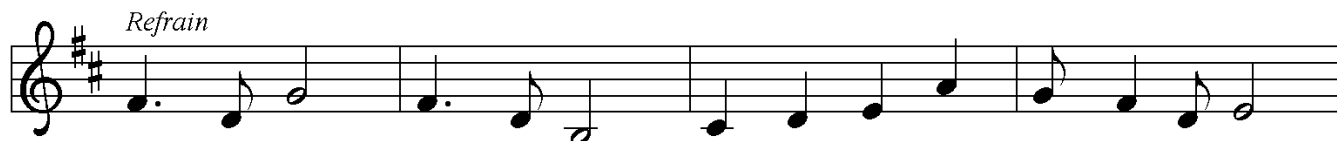
Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, all is now ready. All are welcome!

Distribution of Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: #492 *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* (next page)

(Additional hymns may be played at communion if needed.)



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Table Blessing

May the body & blood of Jesus, strengthen us, preserve us, and unite us in Love.

Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving



☪ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements & Special Blessings

Blessing

May the holy wisdom of God guard your ways and guide your paths. May the living truth of God enlighten your hearts and open your minds. And, may the living Spirit of God give you life, † and life to the full! **Amen..**

Sending Hymn: #638 *Blessed Assurance*



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is With You.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, Jan. 29, 2023

Worship Leaders: Vicar Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil, and Ruthie Culpepper

Zoom Team: Sharon Sorenson, Ernie Parker, Kathy Broman, Mike McNeil

Musicians: Connie Pallone and Melodie Lanosga

Ushers: Ruthie Culpepper and Carol Schulzkump

Communion: JoAnn Karspeck

Flowers: Given today in loving memory of our sister Lanae Rossi.

Sunday Bible Study takes place at 8:30 a.m., downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are beginning a study of Luther's Small Catechism. If you are new to the Lutheran faith, considering membership or baptism, or just want a refresher study, please consider joining us. You can also join us via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82340581969?pwd=V0E5UWNzYXFwK3NoNEUxcmR3SjU9KZz09> -- Meeting ID: 823 4058 1969, Passcode: 938515 -- or dial 1 719 359 4580 US

- Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with 5 Loaves this weekend. We prepared and delivered more than 200 meals.
- Alison "Ali" England has invited the Zion's family to join in the official unveiling of the *Main Street LIVE* 2023 Season at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at *Main Street LIVE*. This is a free evening of song, appetizers, and libations, to celebrate the theater season and to official introduce Ali as the new Executive Director for Main Street.
- Women's Bible Study will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 17 in the Fellowship Hall Blue Room (downstairs) and will meet every other Friday. Please direct questions to Carol Smith.
- Save the Date: Feb. 5 is Zion's Annual Meeting and a Sunday potluck luncheon. Watch your email, E-formation, bulletins and newsletters, for updates and information.
- Coming in March, Paula Little will reprise her popular Wine & Art event, so plan now to join in. Everyone is welcome.
- The Flower Chart has been replaced by the Flower Book, located in the back of the sanctuary. Sign up now for Sundays in 2023, many dates fill quickly. Please use the envelopes in the book for your flower donation, which can be placed in the offering plate.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-732264.

Call to Worship: by Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2020.

Used by permission.

Benediction/Blessing: posted on Literature & Liturgy at <https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>