

## Baptism of Our Lord —Jan. 11, 2026 10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

### **Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastors Lisa Rygiel, Becky McNeil & Carol Hanson

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson

Ushers – David Novey & John Rygiel

Communion – Steve & Carol Hanson



**Worship:** In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

**Communion:** We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

**Fellowship:** Please join us after worship today for coffee and conversation. All are welcome!

**Other Information:** Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary; our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com).

Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: [zionsluth.org](http://zionsluth.org).

***Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.***

~*Gathering*~  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

Come to the waters, beloved — where the Spirit moved at creation, where Jesus was immersed in justice, where God leaned close to us. **We splash in the river of God's joy.**

Come to the waters, beloved — where God's voice thunders, where God whispers kindness. **We watch as Jesus steps into the muddy mess of our lives.**

Come to the waters, beloved — where the Spirit gifts us so we can stand side by side with the broken, alienated, and forgotten. **We come because we are indeed God's beloved children.**

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.**

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God...in the name of the Father, and of the  $\ddagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\ddagger$  one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism...now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: #304 Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized**

### **Greeting**

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

**And also, with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

### **First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup> I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

<sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare; before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

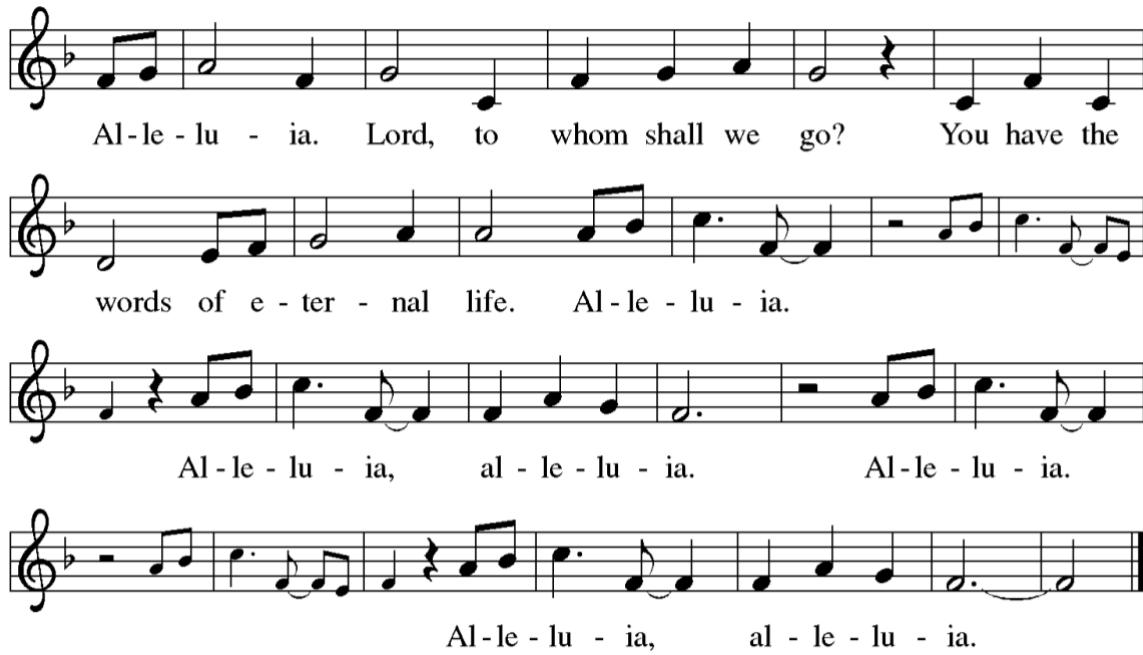
### **Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, word of life. **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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 3. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

**Children’s Message:** Mary McKenna

**Sermon:** Pr. Lisa Rygiel

**Hymn of the Day:** #459 Wade in the Water

## 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**

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. We particularly lift the people of Minneapolis and of Augsburg Seminary. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers, especially those in Venezuela and Gaza. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving, fearful, or ill especially today we pray for...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also, with you.**

*~Meal~*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering**

*As evident through all of creation,*

*God has given freely to us as we freely give now.*

*You can give via check or cash, by mail to 510 Pine Street, or online at:*

*[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1334741).*

**Offertory:** #275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory, vs. 3

## 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

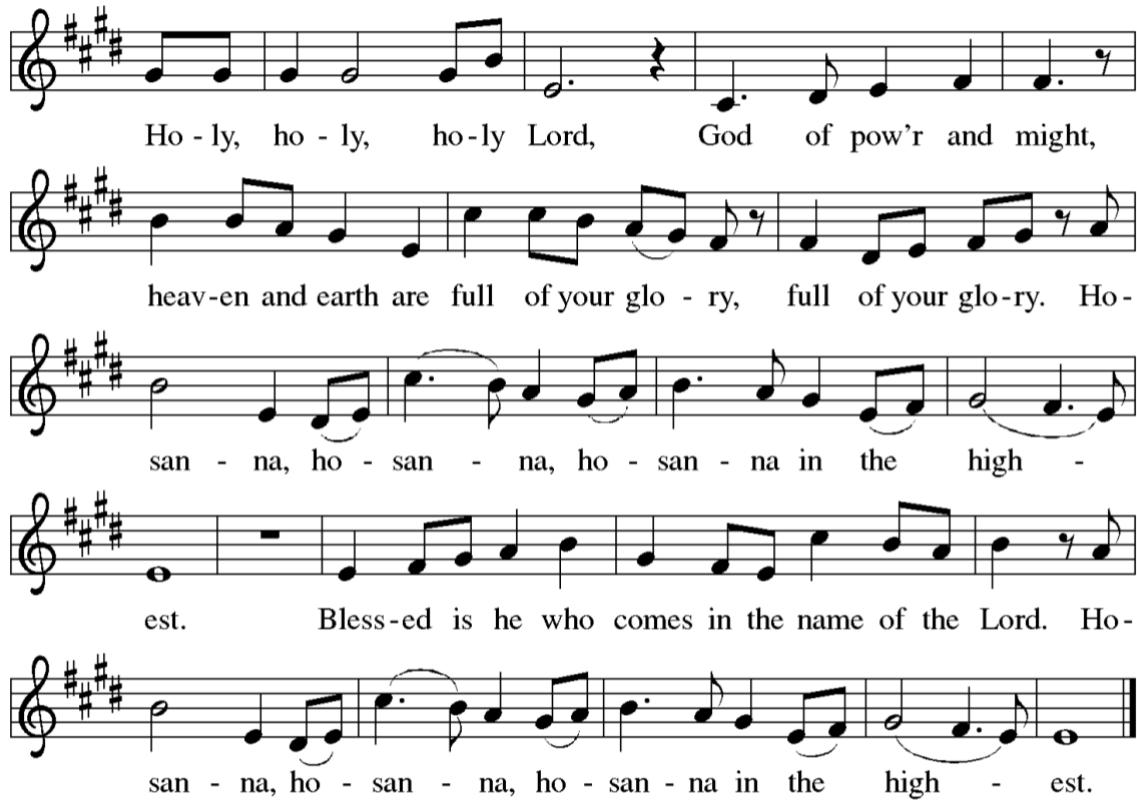
The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

*God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.*

*Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.*

*Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available. God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.*

*Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.*

**Communion Hymn: #955 Come to the Water of Life (blue hymnal)**

## Song of Thanksgiving



**C 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

### Benediction

Go forth now, with God's Word echoing in your hearts.

**We will go to share God's hope with all who are empty.**

Go forth now, with the grace of Jesus filling your souls.

**We will go to share the justice of Jesus with all who are forgotten.**

Go forth now, with the Spirit's peace resting on you.

**We will go to share this peace, placing it like a shawl around the broken, the grieving, the lost and the lonely.**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.   
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** #551 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- +** **Fellowship:** Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.
- +** **Church Council:** Our church council will meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in serving on the church council this is a good opportunity to attend a meeting and to talk with current council members about their roles and service to Zion's.
- +** **The Way Ministry:** At 1 p.m. each Sunday, Zion's welcomes the Way ministry to our Fellowship Hall as they offer food and worship to the unhoused and others in need. Please keep this ministry in your prayers this winter season.
- +** **Church Directory Updates:** Julie Wersal is working on the Zions 2026 Church Directory. She placed a copy of the 2025 directory in a pink binder in the Fellowship Hall. Please take time to look at that directory and make any changes or updates to your information. If you have questions, please talk to Julie.
- +** **Wednesday Book Club:** Pr. Lisa is leading a new Wednesday Book Club beginning with *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*, by Pr. Skye Jethani. The gist of the book is that if we compare Jesus' teachings to a quick survey of how Christians live, it becomes apparent that we often ignore much of what he says. The books are available from many online services such as Amazon. The club meets at 10:30 each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.
- +** **Altar Flowers:** The 2026 Flower Chart is on the door of the Robing Room in the Sanctuary. Please write your name and a few words identifying your donation. A donation of \$35 is requested for flowers.
- +** **Save the Dates:**
  - Jan. 18 – At noon, Pr. Lisa will conduct a class entitled Lutheran Basics for new members and anyone interested in understanding the basics of the Lutheran faith. Talk to Pr. Lisa for details.
  - Jan. 25 – RIC Sunday worship and special fellowship
  - Feb. 1 – Annual Congregational Meeting (after worship & potluck)
  - Feb. 6-7 – the Rev. Dr. Jan Everhart will lead a Women's Conference at First United Methodist Church in Raton. The topic is the Five Women in Jesus' Genealogy. Contact Pr. Jan E. or Pr. Lisa for registration information.