

## Fourth Sunday After Epiphany — Feb. 1, 2026 10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**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.

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship — Pastors Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Becky McNeil

Musicians — Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil

Ushers — Steve Hanson & Mark Moss

Communion — T.M. Garner & Terri Watson



**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 our First Sunday Potluck. 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**

When we seek justice for the other,  
when we love kindness more than ever,  
**we live as God asks us to live.**

When we walk humbly through life,  
when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,  
**we are the blessing God hopes we will be.**

When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus,  
when we choose weakness rather than power,  
**we reflect the One who is in our midst.**

### **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...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, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\ddagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: #977 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table**

### **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.**

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## Kyrie

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## 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.*

**First Reading:** Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,

and you enduring foundations of the earth,

for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For 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.

<sup>5</sup> O 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."

<sup>6</sup> "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?

<sup>7</sup> Will 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?"

<sup>8</sup> He 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?

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

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup> Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

**<sup>4</sup> 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.**

<sup>5</sup> They 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

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider 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. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter one.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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:** Pr. Lisa Rygiel

**Hymn of the Day:** #710 Let Streams of Living Justice

**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**

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries especially Lutheran World Relief.

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. We seek protection for people and our lands during times of drought. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way especially today we pray for...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth leaders who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you, especially those who have died in strife while trying to protect the lives and rights of others.

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:** #1063 God of the Fertile Fields (blue hymnal), v. 2

## Offering Prayer

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

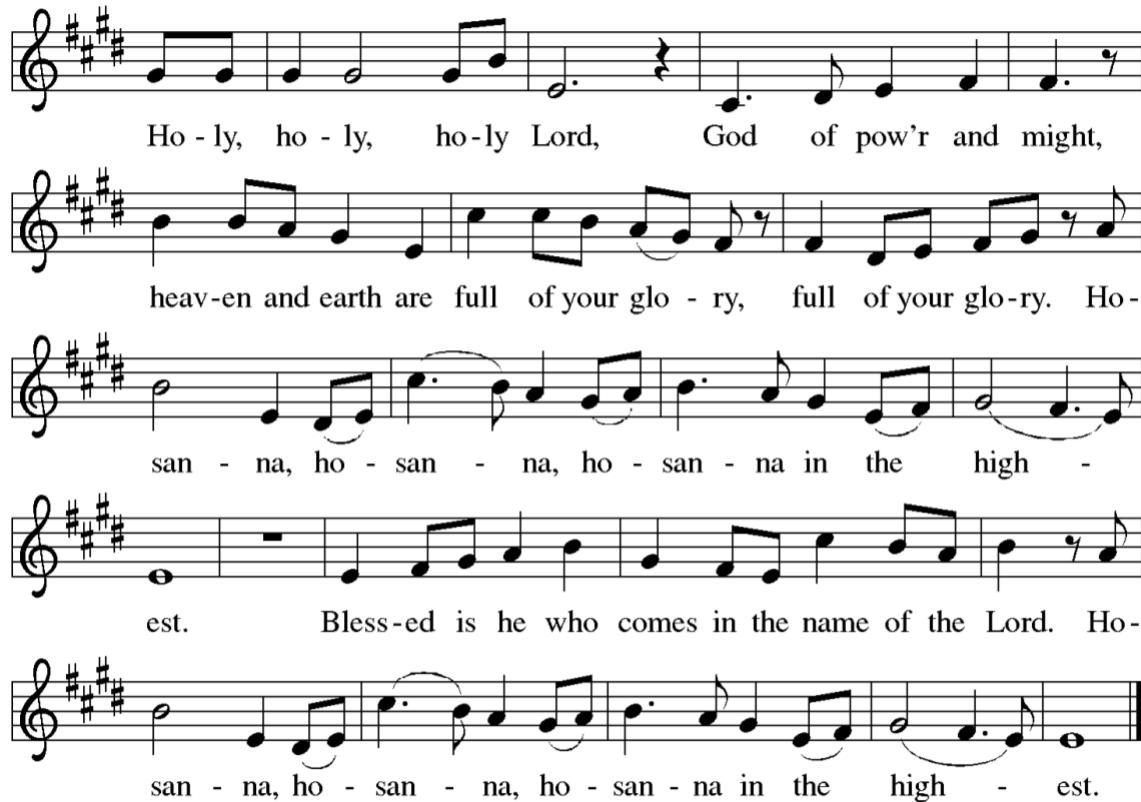
The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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...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, 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, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all...In the night in which he was betrayed...be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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### 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

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

*Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice are available.*

*Taste and See that the Lord is good.*

*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: #838 Beautiful Savior

### 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

Jesus our friend and savior, your life, death, and resurrection changed our world. May this meal of bread and wine bless us and sustain us in the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people. Amen.

~*Sending*~  
*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Announcements & Special Blessings

#### **Benediction**

We have been nourished by God's grace and hope,  
**and so we will go to those who hunger for justice,**  
**as well as to those who thirst for reconciliation.**

We are called to follow the One who is weak and powerless,  
**and so we will bring healing to the broken among us,**  
**as well as comfort to those who grieve in every moment.**

We learn what is right and good from the Holy Spirit,  
**and so we will go as fools to be blessings to the wise,**  
**as well as to do not what is easy, but what is difficult.**

As you go, may 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  $\dagger$  give you peace.

**Sending Hymn:** #1062 Build a Longer Table

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to seek justice for all people. **Thanks be to God.**

## ~Announcements~

- ⊕ **Fellowship:** Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for our First Sunday Potluck, followed by our annual congregational meeting. All are welcome.
- ⊕ **Wednesday Book Club:** Pr. Lisa is leading a new Wednesday Book Club focusing upon *What if Jesus was Serious – A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*. The club meets at 10:30 Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⊕ **5-Loaves Gratitude:** Thank you to everyone who helped with the January 5-Loaves delivers, which allowed us to serve more than 260 meals.
- ⊕ **Souper Bowl of Caring:** Each February, Zion's joins churches nationwide to help transform Super Bowl weekend into a nationwide movement designed to address hunger in our communities. As part of *Souper Bowl of Caring*, Zion's will collect canned goods and non-perishable food items throughout the month of February, for donation to the Trinidad Soup Kitchen. Please consider bringing donations to worship this month. Place these gifts in the soup pot at the front of the Sanctuary. At the end of February, all donations will be given to the Trinidad's Soup Kitchen.
- ⊕ **Officiating Next Sunday:** On Feb. 8, Pastors John & Charlotte Strecker-Baseler again will officiate at our worship service that Sunday, so that Pr. Lisa can attend the ordination in Houston, Texas, of one of her TEEM seminary classmates.
- ⊕ **Church Council:** The next church council meeting is Feb. 8 following worship.
- ⊕ **Invitations from First United Methodist Church:**
  - *Women's Conference Invitation:* 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.
  - *Time of Prayer & Coffee:* Members of the Zion's family are invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee, (in the Marketplace on Commercial Street).
- ⊕ **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.

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