**WELCOME**

**Good morning, and welcome to Zion Lutheran! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today! If you are visiting with us, please fill out the welcome sheet that can be found in your pew and drop it in the offering plate or give it to an usher as you leave.**

**Be sure to take your announcement sheet home to read carefully through all of the announcements, but there are a few items I’d like to draw your attention to:**

* **Thank you to Gladys Melcher for sponsoring our radio broadcast today.**
* **Thank you to all who attended or helped with our winter vendor fair held yesterday. It was a wonderful event with a great turnout!**
* **There will be a preschool open house tomorrow evening from 6:30-7:30 PM. This will be a time for prospective students and their families to tour the space, meet our incredible teacher, and register for the upcoming 23-24 school year. If you have a 3-5 year old in your life and are looking at preschool for the fall, we encourage you to attend! If you can’t make the event, no worries! Registration is already open, and forms can be picked up in the office.**
* **Today at 3 PM will be First Sundays for middle and high school youth. You will meet with Saundra up in the youth room for a time of faith and fun (and food of course)!**
* **And finally this morning, just a reminder that Donna will be gone from Tuesday this upcoming week through the 14th—the office will still be open during this time. Pastor Jim will be gone Thursday—Saturday this week; in case of emergency, you can always contact him on his cell phone.**

**And with that, we begin worship with our Gathering Hymn: We Are Called, #720.**

**GATHERING HYMN *We Are Called* ELW #720**

1. Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God.

*Refrain:*

We are called to act with justice,

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another,

To walk humbly with God.

1. Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain*

1. Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain*

**Please stand.**

**INVOCATION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

**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.**

**We continue with the Canticle of Praise.**

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Description automatically generated**CANTICLE OF PRAISE  *Kyrie*** ELW, pg. 120



**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together: **Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

**KIDS’ TIME Pastoral Assistant Saundra**

**SPECIAL MUSIC *When Morning Guilds the Skies* Timothy Johnson**

Jeremy Schutter, trombone

**FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-9a**

1Shout out, do not hold back!  
  Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
  Announce to my people their rebellion,  
  to the house of Jacob their sins.  
 2Yet day after day they seek me  
  and delight to know my ways,  
  as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
  and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
  they ask of me righteous judgments,  
  they delight to draw near to God.  
 3"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
  Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
  Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
  and oppress all your workers.  
 4Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
  and to strike with a wicked fist.  
  Such fasting as you do today  
  will not make your voice heard on high.  
 5Is such the fast that I choose,  
  a day to humble oneself?  
  Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
  and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
  Will you call this a fast,  
  a day acceptable to the LORD?  
 6Is not this the fast that I choose:  
  to loose the bonds of injustice,  
  to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
  to let the oppressed go free,  
  and to break every yoke?  
 7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
  and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
  when you see the naked, to cover them,  
  and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
 8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
  and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
  your vindicator shall go before you,  
  the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
 9Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
  you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM Psalm 112:1-10** *(read responsively)*

1Praise the LORD!  
  Happy are those who fear the LORD,  
  who greatly delight in his commandments.  
**2Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
  the generation of the upright will be blessed.** 3Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
  and their righteousness endures forever.  
**4They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
  they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.** 5It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
  who conduct their affairs with justice.  
**6For the righteous will never be moved;  
  they will be remembered forever.** 7They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
  their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.  
**8Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid;  
  in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.** 9They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor;  
  their righteousness endures forever;  
  their horn is exalted in honor.  
**10The wicked see it and are angry;  
  they gnash their teeth and melt away;  
  the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

1When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

6Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. 7But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9But, as it is written,  
  "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
  nor the human heart conceived,  
  what God has prepared for those who love him" —  
10these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Diagram

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The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20**

13"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.  
14"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. 18For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon Pastor Jim Holthus**

**HYMN OF THE DAY *Here I Am, Lord* ELW #574**

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin

my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them.

Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, ***(stand up)***

I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide

till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 CHURCH**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way, especially Julie, Duane, Connie, Jerry, Ken, Barb, Esther, and Duane Kolb. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. 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.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.**

[PAUSE WHILE CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS SHARE GREETINGS OF PEACE WITH OTHERS]

**You may be seated.**

**Offering**

In the joy and peace we are given through the cross of Jesus Christ, please consider your gifts to Zion that will strengthen our ministry and mission together for the sake of all in need of hearing of Christ’s love and grace for them. You can give online, in the mail, or in person here today. Children are invited to come forward and place their offerings in the “For Children Everywhere” box at the front of the sanctuary. Thank you for your gracious gifts to Zion and for your partnership in the gospel of Christ.

**We continue with our Offering Hymn, #717: Let Justice Flow Like Streams.**

**OFFERING HYMN *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* ELW #717**

1 Let justice flow like streams

of sparkling water, pure,

enabling growth, refreshing life,

abundant, cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on

as others' cares we heed,

an ever-flowing stream of faith

translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line, straight,

define our measure true,

and justice, right, and peace pervade

this world our whole life through.

**Please stand.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together:

**Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,**

**and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

**GREAT 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.**

**LITANY**

Each of us is broken by sin and less than God has created us to be, but this does not disqualify us from being touched by God and serving God in any capacity, large or small, broken as we are.

**God uses broken things. It takes broken clouds to give rain, broken ground to give grain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.**

**words of institution**

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.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 and taste the joy of God!

**Please be seated. At this time I invite our communion assistants forward.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION HYMN *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* ELW #712**

1 Lord, whose love in humble service

bore the weight of human need,

who upon the cross, forsaken,

worked your mercy's perfect deed:

we, your servants, bring the worship

not of voice alone, but heart;

consecrating to your purpose

ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;

still the hungry cry for bread;

still the captives long for freedom;

still in grief we mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion

healed the sick and freed the soul,

by your Spirit send your power

to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,

till your love's revealing light

in its height and depth and greatness

dawns upon our quickened sight,

making known the needs and burdens

your compassion bids us bear,

stirring us to ardent service,

your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,

forth in your dear name we go,

to the child, the youth, the aged,

love in living deeds to show;

hope and health, good will and comfort,

counsel, aid and peace we give,

that your servants, Lord, in freedom

may your mercy know and live.

**Please stand.**

**blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray together:

**Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

**Amen.**

**Our Sending Hymn is Christ, Be our Light, hymn #715. We will sing verses 1-4.**

**SENDING HYMN *Christ, Be Our Light* ELW #715 vs. 1-4**

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3 Longing for food, many are hungry. ***(process out)***

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

**SENDING WORDS**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**