

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good morning, and welcome to Zion! We are so glad you are worshipping with us on this beautiful Lord's day! If you are visiting with us, please fill out the welcome card that can be found in your bulletin & 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 Dennis and Julie Beusch for sponsoring our radio broadcast today.
- The youth attending the Milwaukee mission trip are selling stocks in their trip. Cost is \$25 and will reserve a seat for you at the stockholder dinner held after the conclusion of the trip. If you prefer not to buy a stock, donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. To purchase stock or make a donation, please visit with the youth or Sandra.
- Today following worship will be the second and last annual meeting forum in the fellowship hall. These forums are an opportunity to look at the budget and annual reports and ask any questions you may have in general ahead of the annual meeting. Also, please be looking through the proposed constitution and bylaw changes and bring any questions you have about the changes to these forums.
- Finally, just a reminder that the church's annual meeting is next Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, following worship. There will be a potluck with this meeting, so mark the date on your calendar and plan to bring a dish to pass.

## **GATHERING BLESSING**

As we turn our hearts to worship:

Bless this place, O God, as we are gathered to hear your word. Inspire us through your spirit and generosity to see the love of the Christ child, empowering us to live as your presence in the world. **Amen.**

**Let us lift our voices in praise and sing our Gathering Hymn, #239: Hark the Glad Sound!**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW #239

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**Please stand.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, with all of who we are.

**Lord, receive the words and meditations of our hearts. Use them to heal and renew us.**

*A moment of silence for self-examination.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**We continue with our Hymn of Reflection: Gathered in the Love of Christ. We will sing it through three times.**

#### **HYMN OF REFLECTION**

#### ***Gathered in the Love of Christ***

Gathered in the love of Christ,  
we are one in the fam'ly of God.  
We are the dwelling place that love has made.  
We are formed to be goodness and light in the world.

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#### **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.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together: God of the nations, **show us how to love all the people of the earth, of all colors and kinds: those with technology and without; those who make due with very little and those who use many resources; those with formal education and without; those who call upon your name and who do not; so that all your children may be glorified in the name of the One who brought glory and liberty, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.**

**Please be seated.**

#### **KIDS' TIME**

**FIRST READING****Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When their breath departs, they return to the earth;**

**on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God,

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth,**

**the sea, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps faith forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

<sup>8</sup>**the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD will reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

**Praise the LORD!**

**PREPARING FOR THE WORD****HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*

**ELW #172**

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

**Luke 4:14-30**

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." <sup>22</sup>All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup>He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup>And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup>But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup>yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup>There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup>When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup>They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

**Please be seated.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Nicole Martin**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*****Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*****ELW #843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

**(stand up)****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 the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Giver of gifts, you form each member of the church to serve. Inspire us to boldly use gifts of welcome and healing, service and teaching, leading and preaching, for the sake of your work in the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Refuge of creatures, you place all the living under the shadow of your wings. Lead us in ways that tend to the needs of wild and domestic animals, creatures threatened by extinction, and the environment we share. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Voice of the oppressed, you call prophets throughout time. We remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a voice for racial and economic justice and for peace. Guide our nation in continuing to heed your prophetic call. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, as Jesus celebrated at Cana, nurture marriages and relationships in mutual care; in times of separation or divorce hold tenderly broken hearts and broken dreams. Be present to all who are sick, grieving or in any need, especially Gladys, Bernice, Rhonda, Lois, Esther, Norma, Sharon, Kathy, Carrie, Joy, Alyssa, Jerry, Barb, Dell, Sharon, and Ken. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Spirit of peace, celebrating this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for neighboring congregations and ministry sites. Nurture our shared commitment to embody Jesus' love, justice, and healing. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Wellspring of life, in living and dying we trust in you. We give thanks for the saints. Guide us in our living until, at last, we rest in you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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]

### **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: As We Gather at Your Table, hymn #522.**

#### **OFFERING HYMN**

#### ***As We Gather at Your Table***

**ELW #522**

- 1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;



teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.

- 2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels

**Please stand.**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together: God of grace, **your love reaches to the heavens and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. 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.**

We come to the table of the Lord

**blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, in the waters of baptism.**

We come to the table of the Lord

**blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, in the Word made flesh and active in bread and wine.**

We come to the table of the Lord

**blessed to be touched by the almighty presence of God, for the healing and restoration of our soul.**

### **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**

Let us pray in confidence the words our Savior gave us:

**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 be blessed by the touch of God, in the bread and wine. All are welcome to receive the joy, strength, and love of God.

**Please be seated. Here at Zion, we practice open communion, which means that all who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of The Lord's Supper are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. We have gluten-free wafers and grape juice available; please indicate to the server by raising your hand.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lamb of God*

ELW, pg. 154

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*You Are Mine*

*Sonya Kempf, organ*

## 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: Nourishing God, **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

## MINISTRY MOMENT

**Please stand.**

## BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

**We conclude with the Sending Hymn, #434: Jesus Shall Reign. We will sing verses 1, 3, 5.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*Jesus Shall Reign*

**ELW #434**

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

**(process out)**

5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

**SENDING WORDS**

Go in peace. Share the rich word of Christ's presence for all.

**Thanks be to God, and we will.**