**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 29, 2023**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy, O God,

**against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Gathering Song“O God of Mercy, God of Light” ELW 714**



**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.

**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.**

**INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION**

**P:** The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that *these sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation. Please come forward as your names are read.

***P:*** *A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good*. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)*

**P:** You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

*The presiding minister addresses those being installed.*

**P:** On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected?*

**Response:**I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

**P:** People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**Congregation: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.*

**P:** I now declare you installed as *officers and council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

**Congregation: Amen**

**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.**

**Psalm 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 up- **|** on 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 a- **|** gainst 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**



**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:
 3“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 4“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 5“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
 6“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
 7“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
 8“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
 9“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 10“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 11“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12Rejoice 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.**

**CHILDREN’S Sermon  Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

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**Hymn of the Day“Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723**





**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Prayers of Intercession**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

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. We pray especially for Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme and Rev. Carolyn Heider. 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 the ill or grieving. 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. 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.**

**OFFERtory SONG**



**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue**

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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



**Thanksgiving at the Table**

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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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 to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**communion**

\**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“O Master, Let Me Walk with You” ELW 818**



**“O Savior, Precious Savior” ELW 820**



**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

God, the Source of glory, God, the Word of life, God, the Spirit of truth

☩ bless you all, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Jesus the Very Thought of You” ELW 754**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Beck Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Anna Zylstra**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

 **Trustee:**

**Offering Counters: Doug Mackenzie & Mike Johnson**

**Safety Person: Diane Griffin**

**This week at Zion:**

* Confirmation and Bd of Youth after church, Today, January 29
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, February 1

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Installation of all officers and board members** (both newly elected and current) is today.
* **“Soup R Bowl”**:  Our “Soup R Bowl” collection begins today!  This year we are collecting to help two good causes.  We will again collect for Feed the Need.  Feed the Need is currently serving about 95 children so to sponsor one weekend, we will need to collect 95 cans of soup and 95 individual serving packets of crackers.  We will also collect for the Hastings PTA.  This is the organization that helps kids at the school our Griffin children attend.  The PTA serves 59 kids and is asking for individual serving packs of fruit snacks, Rice Krispie Treats, crackers or similar items.  We will keep track by quarter (each Sunday is a quarter) and end on Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th.  Thank you for your generosity!  If you have questions, please talk with Martha or Jolene.  This collection is sponsored by the Board of Evangelism and the ZLCW.
* **Two Special Birthdays –** One Fun Sunday!  Mark your calendar for February 5th to attend a special birthday brunch fellowship after church to celebrate two of our members, Alice Morrow and Caroline Brecheisen.  Caroline will turn 95 on February 5th and Alice will be 99 on February 9th.  Feel free to bring cards for the ladies, but no gifts please.  Let’s help these two wonderful ladies have a memorable birthday!
* **Valentine’s collection:** The ZLCW is placing bags for Valentine surprises for our shut-in members on a table in the Fellowship Hall.  You may place cards or small goodies for these people.  There are approximately 9 bags. They will be there until Sunday, February 5th, so they can be delivered by the 14th.  We will need volunteers to deliver the bags**.**
* **Community Dinner Workers Needed:** Zion’s next week to host the Community Dinner at Central UMC in Lake Odessa is Thursday, February 16th.  We need a crew of about 6-8 people to set up, service, clean-up and provide fellowship to those attending the dinner.  Two workers start at 3:00, the remaining arrive about 3:45 to begin serving at 4 pm.  The dinner is served until 6 pm and then clean-up takes about another half hour or so.  Please see Martha is you are able to help with this mission.  Thank you,
* **Reminder**: During the heating season, please leave the Sunday School classroom doors open when not in use otherwise the opening area will be very cold.  Please close the doors to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall when they are not in use.  Thank you.