**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 21, 2024**

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



**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**GATHERING**

The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord. (Henri Nouwen)

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“I Love to Tell the Story” ELW 661**



**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.

**Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading  Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

A reading from Jonah.

1The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. 4Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.  
 10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 62:5-12**

5For God alone I **|** wait in silence;  
  truly, my hope **|** is in God.  
 6**God alone is my rock and | my salvation,**  
  **my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.**  
 7In God is my deliverance **|** and my honor;  
  God is my strong rock **|** and my refuge.  
 8**Put your trust in God al- | ways, O people,**  
  **pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.**   
 9Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate can- **|** not be trusted.  
  Placed on the scales together they weigh even less **|** than a breath.  
 10**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no | empty pride;**  
  **though wealth increase, set not your | heart upon it.**  
 11God has spoken once, twice **|** have I heard it,  
  that power be- **|** longs to God.  
 12**Steadfast love belongs to | you, O Lord,**  
  **for you repay all according | to their deeds.**

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

29Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, 30and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, 31and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Mark 1:14-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**Sermon  Pastor Jim Morgan**

**Hymn of the Day“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult” ELW 696**



**CREED**

Joining with church in all times and places, let us affirm 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.**

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

**Prayers of Intercession**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. We pray especially for Grace Lutheran Church in Lansing, and Rev. Christin Fawcett. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & OFFERING SONG**

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

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 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**

**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ELW 815**



**“Take My Life, That I May Be” ELW 685**



**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Chrit, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

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 SonG “O Jesus, I Have Promised” ELW 810**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Presider: Pastor Jim Morgan Musician: Jayne Flanigan**

**Acolyte: Lexie Griffin Safety Person:**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers Trustee: Martha Yoder**

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

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and especially **Grace Lutheran Church in Lansing and Rev. Christin Fawcett**

Prayers for our friends, for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.

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**ONLINE GIVING**

Zion has received a QR code to facilitate online giving. If you are interested in donating online instead of bringing your donation to church, simply scan the QR code and it will direct you to the appropriate site. The code is on our website as well.

**This week at Zion:**

* Annual meeting today following service, potluck afterwards
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, January 24
* **Newsletter deadline, 8 PM Wednesday, January 24**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Good news:** We have just signed a letter of agreement with Rev. James M Morgan. He will be our interim Pastor for the next few months. He lives in Portage MI and will be here for 3 Sundays a month. He will also take care of all our pastoral needs. This will greatly reduce the pressure of finding a pastor for every Sunday. Thank you, Pastor Jim.
* **Annual Meeting today:** Please plan to attend this important meeting. We need a quorum to vote on a number of important issues, including whether to consider a full-time minister, updates to the parsonage, and the addition of a storage building at the church. There will also be the election of officers. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck following the meeting.
* **Valentine’s Day gift bags:** Valentine’s day is fast approaching and we are in need of donations for our yearly Valentine’s gift bags which are in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are also needed to deliver the bags on February 11. Please see Dawn Brodbeck with any questions.
* **“Soup” R Bowl Collection**: We will again hold a “Soup” R Bowl collection for Feed the Need for four Sundays, ending on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th. This year we will collect cans of soup (no cream soups), canned pasta (like ravioli, spaghetti and meat balls, etc.), mac and cheese mixes and individual packages of snacks (crackers, pretzels, cookies). New this year is that several other area churches in the ministerial association will also be holding collections. The goal is to collect enough food to “feed the need” for the remainder of the school year. Feed the Need is currently serving 110 kids. That means our collective goal is to collect 770 of each item! When you go grocery shopping, please consider picking up a few items each week and help us Feed the Need of our local kids.
* **Door Locking Policy:** Our door locking policy relies on having a volunteer(s) each Sunday to serve as the Safety Person of the Day. On Sundays where no one has volunteered, if someone arrives at church and is willing to be the Safety Person of the Day, we will follow the door locking policy. If no one steps forward to serve as the Safety Person of the Day, the doors will not be locked as there will be no one to monitor the church cell phone and let late arrivals into the church. Please consider volunteering for this important duty
* **Church Musician Opening**: We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month starting in January 2024. The musician would play liturgy and hymns for our Sunday worship services. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in sharing their musical gifts with Zion, please contact Buffy Meyers. It is a paid position.
* **Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee continues to meet and research candidates from the synod. Please pray for wisdom and patience for the Call Committee and the congregation.