**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, January 28, 2024**

**\*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**

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“O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come” ELW 610**



**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.

**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading  Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] 15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” 17Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 111**

1Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with **|** my whole heart,  
  in the assembly of the upright, in the **|** congregation.  
 2**Great are your | works, O Lord,**  
  **pondered by all who de- | light in them.**  
 3Majesty and splendor **|** mark your deeds,  
  and your righteousness en- **|** dures forever.  
 4**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;**  
  **you are gracious and full | of compassion.**   
 5You give food to **|** those who fear you,  
  remembering forev- **|** er your covenant.  
 6**You have shown your people the power | of your works**  
  **in giving them the lands | of the nations.**  
 7The works of your hands are faithful- **|** ness and justice;  
  all of your pre- **|** cepts are sure.  
 8**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,**  
  **because they are done in | truth and equity.**   
 9You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- **|** nant forever;  
  holy and awesome **|** is your name.  
 10**The fear of the Lord is the begin- | ning of wisdom;**  
  **all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- | dures forever.**

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

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 1:21-28**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

21[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” 28At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**Sermon  Pastor Frank Rothfuss**

**Hymn of the Day“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” ELW 310**



**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.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. We pray especially for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lansing and Rev. Janice Hite. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. We pray especially for Shawn Allerding, the Bursley family, Lexie Griffin, Don Griffin, Don Aspinall, Chris Bush, Dawn Brodbeck, Arlene Forman, Chloe Makley, Erik Anderson, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Chris and Charles Farlee and for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. 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**

**“Healer of Our Every Ill” ELW 612**



**“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW 471**

A sheet music with text

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**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 “Jesus Shall Reign” ELW 434**

A sheet music with text and notes

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**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 **Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lansing and Rev. Janice Hite**

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 Shawn Allerding, the Bursley family, Lexie Griffin, Don Griffin, Don Aspinall, Chris Bush, Dawn Brodbeck, Arlene Forman, Chloe Makley, Erik Anderson, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Cort Zylstra, Chris and Charles Farlee and 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:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, January 31

**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.
* **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. There are 11 total. 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.