

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*Our mission: Belong. Believe. Be sent. Share Jesus Christ for Life*



## Third Sunday after Epiphany

*January 22, 2023*

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

**Prelude** *Preambulum in D minor*, BWV 926

by J.S. Bach

Keyboardist – Elizabeth Smith

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Gathering Hymn** Shine, Jesus, Shine

No. 671

### 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.**

Lord have mer-cy. Lord, have - mer-cy. Christ have  
mer-cy. Christ, have - mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,  
have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on  
earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther,  
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.  
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly  
Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther, A - - - - men.

### Prayer of the Day

Lord God, **your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He will make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. You will multiply the nation, You

will increase their joy; They will rejoice in Your presence As with the joy of harvest, As people rejoice when they divide the spoils. For You will break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

*After reading:* Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God!** *Silence for reflection*

### **Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

*The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom should I fear?

The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom should I dread?

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek:**

**That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD And to meditate in His temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For on the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;

He will hide me in the secret place of His tent; He will lift me up on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,**

**And I will offer sacrifices in His tent with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes,  
I will sing praises to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, LORD, when I cry with my voice,

and be gracious to me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,**

**"I shall seek Your face, LORD."**

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger;

You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, God of my salvation.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.*

My brothers and sisters, I urge you by the name of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed, to come together in agreement. Do not allow anything or anyone to create division among you. Instead, be restored, completely fastened together with one mind and shared judgment. <sup>11</sup> I have heard troubling reports from Chloe's people that you, my siblings, are consumed by fighting and petty disagreements. <sup>12</sup> What I have heard is that each of you is taking sides, saying, "I am with Paul," or "I am with Apollos," or "I am with Cephas," or "I am with the Anointed One." <sup>13</sup> Has the Anointed One been split up into many small pieces? Do you think Paul was crucified for you? Were you ceremonially washed through baptism into the name of Paul? Absolutely not! <sup>14</sup> Now I am thankful that I baptized only Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so none of you can falsely declare you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> Now wait, as I think about it, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; if there are others in your community whom I baptized, I cannot recall at this moment. <sup>17</sup> The mission given to me by the Anointed One is not about baptism, but about preaching good news. The point is not to impress others by spinning an eloquent, intellectual argument; that type of rhetorical showboating would only nullify the cross of the Anointed. <sup>18</sup> For people who are stumbling toward ruin, the message of the cross is nothing but a tall tale for fools by a fool. But for those of us who are already experiencing the reality of being rescued and made right, it is nothing short of God's power. (For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. NRSV)

*After reading:* Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God!** *Silence for reflection*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Fine* Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. *Repeat alleluia*

**Gospel: The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew 4:12-23. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

<sup>12</sup> *It was not long until powerful people put John in prison. When Jesus learned this, He went back to Galilee.* <sup>13</sup> *He moved from Nazareth to Capernaum, a town by the sea in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali.* <sup>14</sup> *He did this to fulfill one of the prophecies of Isaiah:* <sup>15</sup> *In the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the road to the sea along the Jordan in Galilee, the land of the outsiders—* <sup>16</sup> *In these places, the people who had been living in darkness saw a great light. The light of life will overtake those who dwelt in the shadowy darkness of death.* <sup>17</sup> *From that time on, preaching was part of Jesus' work. Jesus was saying: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* <sup>18</sup> *One day Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee when He saw Simon (also called Peter) and Andrew throwing their nets into the water. They were, of course, fishermen. Jesus said:* <sup>19</sup> *"Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."* <sup>20</sup> *Immediately Peter and Andrew left their fishnets and followed Jesus.* <sup>21</sup> *Going on from there, Jesus saw two more brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They, too, were fishermen. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee getting their nets ready to fish. Jesus summoned them, just as He had called to Peter and Andrew,* <sup>22</sup> *and immediately they left their boat and their father to follow Jesus.* <sup>23</sup> *And so Jesus went throughout Galilee. He taught in the synagogues. He preached the good news of the Kingdom, and He healed people, ridding their bodies of sickness and disease.*

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Silence for reflection*

**Sermon** "We'll leave the light on for ya."

J.P. Freeman

**Hymn of the Day** Will You Come and Follow Me

No. 798

**Apostle's 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.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

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

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick. Especially those on our current prayer list... Earl McKinley, Jack Williams, Peggy Gilbert, Mara Joy Nelson, Linda Rager Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Nancy Coble, Betty Lawrenz, Mary Lois Chamberlain, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, Janet Hays. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. 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.**

### **Offering Prayer**

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.**

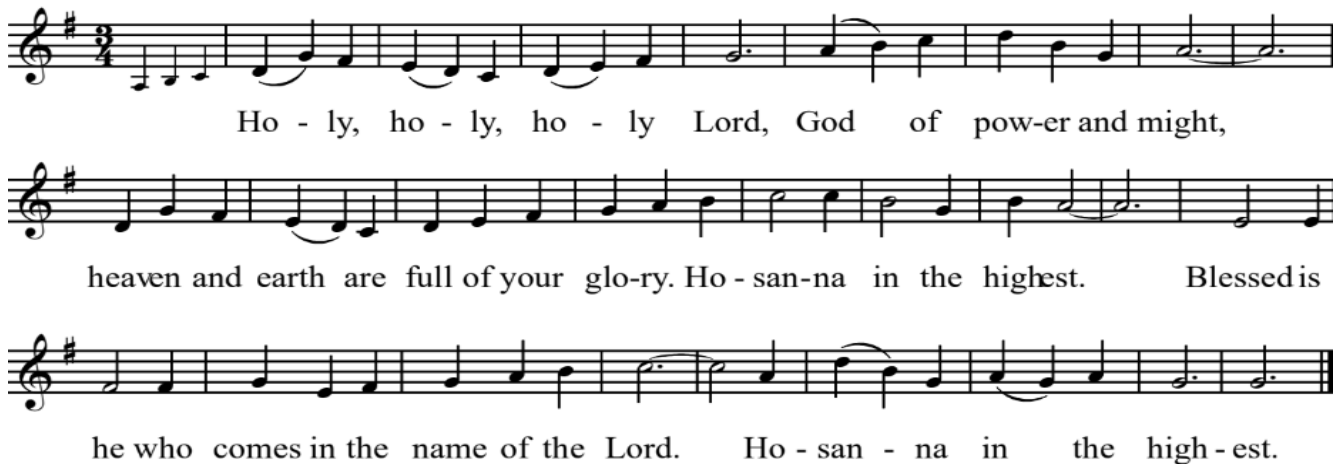
### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Risen Lord be with you! **C: And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts! **C: We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God! **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their undending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the highest. Blessed is  
 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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 in 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord’s Prayer**

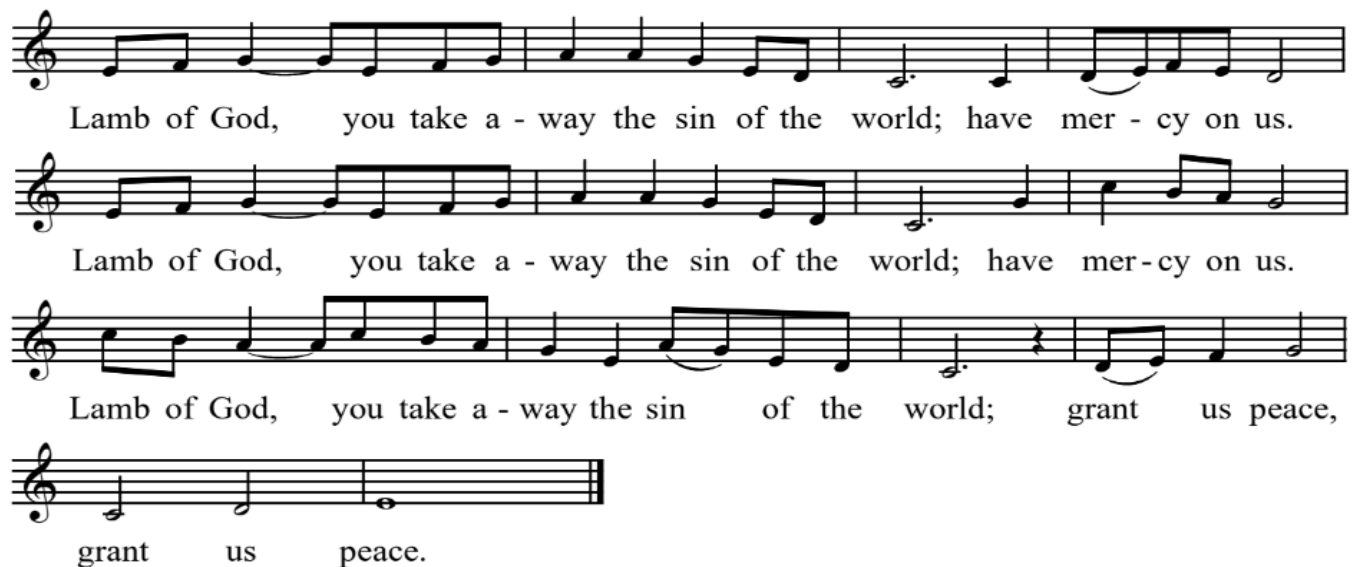
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and 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**

The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

**Voluntary** *Salvation unto Us Has Come* (Hymn 590)

arr. Anne Krentz Organ



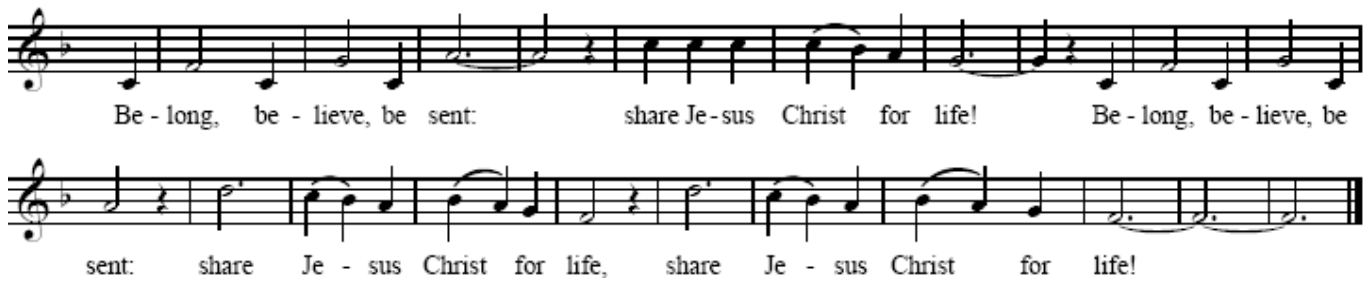
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace,  
 grant us peace.



## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. 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.



Be - long, be - lieve, be sent: share Je - sus Christ for life! Be - long, be - lieve, be  
sent: share Je - sus Christ for life, share Je - sus Christ for life!

## Blessing

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

**Sending Hymn** Christ, Be Our Light

No. 715

## Dismissal

Go forth in joy and peace! **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** *Lord God on High*

by Lani Smith

**Announcements:** The Chimes will resume practices on February 12 after worship, to prepare for Easter. If you are curious, please join us to give ringing a try!

**Prayer List:** Earl McKinley, Jack Williams, Peggy Gilbert, Mara Joy Nelson, Linda Rager Hampton, Marie Betten-Niccum, Joanne Boettcher, Nancy Coble, Betty Lawrenz, Mary Lois Chamberlain, Lois Dowd, Phyllis Werking, and Janet Hays.

We Continue to pray for Ukraine.

## Service Music Acknowledgments

Kyrie from Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937, © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

Glory to God, Gospel Acclamation, and Holy, Holy Holy by Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Lamb of God by Jay Beech, b. 1960 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church's Mission Statement

*To Belong, to Believe, to be Sent: share Jesus Christ for Life.*

*The Lord is calling Zion to live out its calling **to belong** to Jesus Christ and to each other by virtue of our baptism; **to believe** in Jesus Christ by virtue of faith given as a gift of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament; **to be sent** by Jesus Christ as ambassadors of the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, communities, and to the ends of the earth.*