

WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Epiphany of our Lord January 5, 2025

**(Congregation please stand as able)*

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God-with-us,

C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory; a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. C: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: ELW 866 *We Are Marching in the Light

You are invited to face the back of the church for the opening hymn. As the cross is processed into the congregation you may continue to sing toward it.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "We Are Marching in the Light". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God. we are march - ing in the light of God." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and triplets.

We are march - ing

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
we are march - ing in the light of God.

we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

We are march - ing

We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,
we are march - ing in the light of God.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics written below the notes. There are three systems of music. The first system has two staves (treble and bass). The second system also has two staves. The third system has two staves. The lyrics are: 'We are march - ing', 'We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.', 'we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.', 'we are march - ing in the light of God.', 'We are march - ing', 'We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing in the light of God.' There are some musical notations like 'oo' above the first staff and '3' (triplets) in the second and third systems.

Additional stanzas : We are praying ...

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE**

Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on us.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Shine your light in to our dark - ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love.
Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to live as one.

Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind.
Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.

Breathe new life in - to our spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our hearts and minds.
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our Lord, Em - man - u - el.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics written below the notes. There are four systems of music. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on us. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.', 'Shine your light in to our dark - ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love. Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to live as one.', 'Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind. Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.', 'Breathe new life in - to our spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our hearts and minds. Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our Lord, Em - man - u - el.'

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed
joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home. - - - - -
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo
ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

WORDS: David Eck, copyright © 2011. TUNE: Angels We Have Heard On High

SCRIPTURE & SERMON

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 602 in pew Bible)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7, 10-14 (pg. 464 in pew Bible, also below)

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

Congregation: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

L: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

C: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

C: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

L: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

C: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

L: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

C: From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 (pg. 950 in pew Bible)

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

After the reading: **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON *as the children come forward, please join in singing:*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where he lay; the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (tune: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly #44 green book*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord to whom now shall we go?

Alleluia, Alleluia, Let Your blessings through us flow!

You have words of life eternal, help us to hear them, and to tell all

In your wisdom, make us grow; in your wisdom, make us grow.

***GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 783 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 2nd Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 302 *As with Gladness Men of Old* v.1,2,3 & 5

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
5 In the heav' - n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav' - n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav' - n - ly king.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 DIX 777777

OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(after hearing, "God, in your mercy," respond: **Hear our Prayer**)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord." respond: **Amen.**)

***SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERING WITH OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: <http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/>, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, which is our regular electronic offering service, offering both one-time, and regular, automatic options.



***POST OFFERING VERSE** (tune: *What Child Is This*)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

P: 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

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*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Grounded in these promises, we pray the way 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

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

LAMB OF GOD (tune: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give us your peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive your grace and teach us how to fol- low your ways. Re- joice! Re- joice! E- man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra- el.

At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that accommodation, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

*Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.*

“Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMNS: #646 *We Three Kings of Orient Are*
 (blue book) #651 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*
 #652 *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **C: Amen.**

P: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

C: We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

***BENEDICTION**

P: The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN:** ELW 815 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

As the cross is processed to the rear of the sanctuary as we sing, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain
 In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **C: Thanks be to God!**

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Tom Mohn, Andy Bomberger, Nancy Bowman, Pastor Ted Hummel, hurricane victims and all victims of violence.

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshipping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome!

Zion's Annual Congregational Meal and Celebration will be held on Sunday, January 26 after worship in the Social Hall and YOU are invited and encouraged to attend. We will look back, with gratitude for what God has done through our congregation this year, and look forward to how God is calling us to serve, and grow, and live in the year to come. *Sign ups on the Bulletin Board outside the Church Office are greatly appreciated.*

Wednesday night dinner and Rejoicing Spirits worship will resume this Wednesday, January 8, 2025. We gather in the Social Hall for a free meal at 5:30 PM, followed by a worship service at 6:15 PM. All are welcome to this service which is especially designed to include all abilities and ages. Questions? Email: pastorckurtz@gmail.com or zionswednesdays@gmail.com.

This Week at Zions:

Jan. 7, Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
Jan. 8, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship,
6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Next Week at Zions:

Jan. 12, Sunday @ 9:15 Mens & Women's Bible study
Jan. 13, Monday @ 6:30 pm Worship & Music Committee meeting
Jan. 14, Tuesday @ 9:00 am Quilting
Jan. 15, Wednesday @ 10:30 am NL Ministerium meeting
Jan. 15, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship,
6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Men's and Women's Bible studies will meet January 12 at 9:15 am. Donuts and coffee will be available.

Highlights from December's Council meeting are sent out via email after the meeting. Copies are then available at the small bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

"The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed..." NEW study on Jesus' parables begins Wednesday January 15 at 6:50 PM. Jesus uses parables to illustrate the kingdom of God-- highlighting how God works in surprising places and through surprising people. We will study a parable each week, hand in hand with a chapter from the new book "Small and Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement" by Sharon McMahon. This book will give us a glimpse into our country's history, and a real life example of how God has worked through ordinary people to shine light and love in the world--especially appropriate themes for the season of Epiphany (which begins today and lasts until Lent) and the dark winter months. Together we will find hope in the promises of scripture and stories of those who have gone before us. *Free copies of the book will be available in the Gathering Area. It's also available on Kindle. For the first gathering, please read "The Angel of the Rockies"*

Serving at Zion's		Today	Next Sunday
Lector		Kelly Rittle	Michelle Bucks
Prayer		Deb Long	Gracie Bucks
Children's sermon		Pastor Caitlin	Pastor Caitlin
Comm. Assts.		Linda Wenrich, Elaine Ludwig	Linda Toth, Judy Merkel
Greeter		Stephanie Livingston	
Acolyte		Greyson McQuaide, Jacob Anspach	Izaak McQuaide, Derek Wolfe
Crucifer			
Altar Guild		McQuaide family	McQuaide family
Elevette		Ann Kulp	Steve Bucks
Ushers	Jim Fowler		

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin
SOUND: Houser family
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