## WELCOME TO ZION'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# 7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

#### Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

**Every Week at Zions:** @ 10:30 Worship, 9:15 Sunday School Wednesday night activities 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

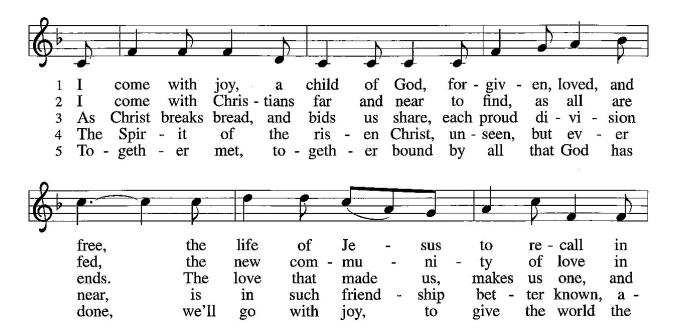
- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our creator, our protector, and our wellspring of life. C: Amen.
- P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection
- P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **C: Amen.** 

## \*Processional Hymn: ELW 482 I Come with Joy

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.



<sup>\*(</sup>Congregation please stand as able)



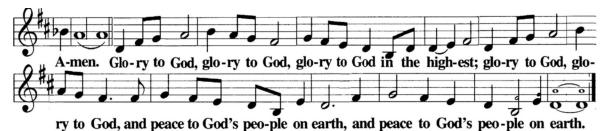
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 Text @ 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company DOVE OF PEACE B6 866

## \*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.

## \*Hymn of Praise





to peace to God's peo-pic on earth, and peace to God's peo-pic on t

## **SCRIPTURE & SERMON**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11,15 (pg. 37 in pew Bible)

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

After the reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM:** 37:1-11, 39-40 (pg. 443 in pew Bible, also below)

Leader: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,

Congregation: for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

L: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

C: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

L: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

C: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

L: Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

C: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

L: For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

C: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

L: But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight in abundant prosperity.

C: The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

L: The Lord helps them and rescues them;

C: he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 (pg. 936 in pew Bible)

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

After the reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

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

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 (pg. 838 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord. 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

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

#### SERMON

\*Hymn of the day: ELW 603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



#### **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 entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people." respond: **Amen.**)

## \*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

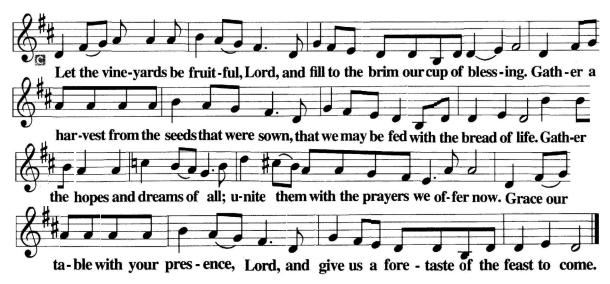
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#### OFFERING WITH OFFERTORY

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



## \*Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service; our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **C: Amen.** 

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

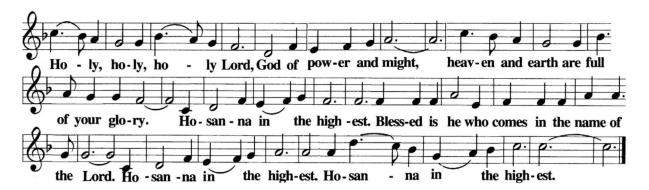
Please stand as you are able.

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. 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 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



#### \*Words of Institution

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth and created us in your likeness. You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care. All through our weary years and our silent tears, you did not abandon us to ourselves, but sought us out in love. When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.

When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.

When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us. Through your holy prophets you called us to return to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.

In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life. For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world, but to save the world from sin. Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P: With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us; his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners, his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine, that we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.

C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

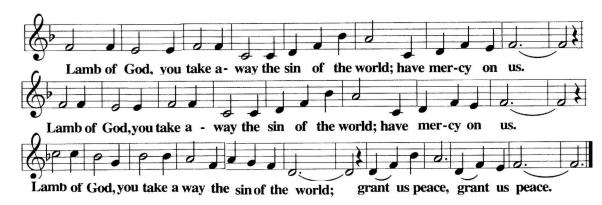
P: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

P: This joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS: #363 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (green book) #126 Where Charity and Love Prevail #359 In Christ There Is No East or West

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

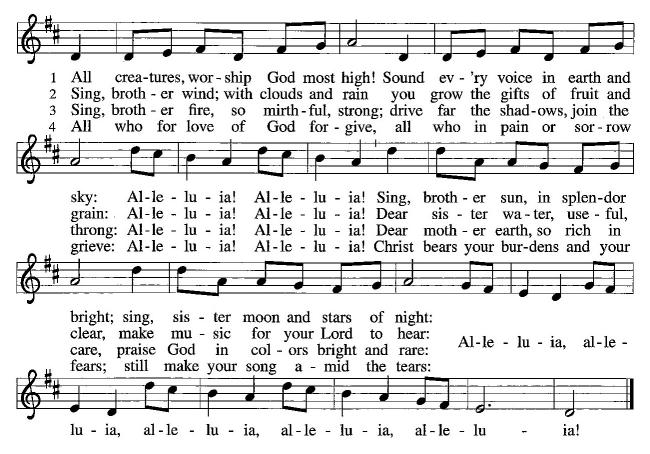
P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. **C: Amen.** 

#### \*BENEDICTION

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. C: Amen.

\*Sending Hymn: ELW 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High v.1-4

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



#### \*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God!

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 worshiping 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!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Kerri Price, Maryellen, Bob, Jessica Harris, Anna Mae, Ken Hess, Andy Bomberger, hurricane and fire victims and all victims of violence.

#### This Week at Zions:

Feb. 24, Monday @ 6:30 pm Mission Ministry meeting

Feb. 26, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Feb. 26, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

#### **Next Week at Zions:**

Mar. 2, Sunday @ 9:15 Lent Event

Mar. 5, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Mar. 5, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

You are invited to the LENT EVENT on Sunday, March 2 at 9:15 AM as we prepare for the season of Lent together. We'll introduce the Bible story behind our theme of "stonecatching", share the Lent devotional tools we've created for the season, transform stones from tools of (potential) destruction into instruments of beauty, and play a life size game of Hungry, Hungry Hippos! All ages are welcome and encouraged to attendyou won't want to miss it!

Ash Wednesday worship, with imposition of ashes, will be held March 5 at noon, 6:15 PM, and 7 PM. The noon service is spoken, abbreviated and in the sanctuary. The 6:15 service is our Rejoicing Spirits celebration in the Social Hall, and the 7 PM service is a traditional service in the sanctuary. The 7 PM service will also be livestreamed.

Wednesday at 6:50 PM will be our last conversation about parables and "The Small and the Mighty" until after Easter. If you're reading along, please read "Go for broke" and Luke 10:25-27...if you'd just like to come for the conversation, you're welcome to do that too!

Emergency Text/Call Service: We "got" to use our new text/call system last Sunday! If we have a number on file for you, you should have received a call around 8:50 am letting you know that 9:15 am activities were canceled, and worship was on. \*If you didn't, and would like to receive these notifications\* please let the office or Pastor Caitlin know so we can look into it. In the future, we will try to send these notifications a bit earlier, and will be able to text those who chose that option (and calls for those who didn't). If you add our church number 717-865-2848 to your phone list, it should show up as "Zion's Church" (or whatever you save us as)

**Did you know? Our congregation has a Facebook page!** If you are on Facebook, simply search "Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church" and then be sure to 'like' our page. We use our main page to share upcoming events, photos from previous events, stories from the broader church, and words of encouragement. Women of the congregation are also invited to join our "Women of Zion's" Facebook group, where prayer requests are shared, together with requests for help, and, sometimes, articles of interest. This group is open to all women associated with the congregation, but is considered by Facebook to be a 'closed' group--to be added, please email <a href="mailto:pastorckurtz@gmail.com">pastorckurtz@gmail.com</a>.

St. Paul writes, "Now ya'll are the body of Christ, and individually members of it"...as the Youth reminded us, we can do great things when we work together! The enclosed Time and Talent form is how we are able to connect you with service opportunities that match your abilities and interest. Please take a few moments to complete it--if you haven't already done one this year--and return it in the offering plate, or in the marked box in the Gathering Area. You can also use this QR code to complete an online version. THANK YOU for your willingness to share your gifts at Zion's!

The photo directory is now 'live' on the app or website! Instruction sheets for logging on can be found in the Gathering Area. If you're having trouble, please contact Debbie Long at 717 269-6050. We hope to have print copies next month.

Mission Ministry is collecting food items for JOY during the month of February. The items can be dropped off in the gathering area. Needed Items: Canned Fruits: Pineapple, Pear, Peaches, Fruit Cocktail, Canned Red Beets, Canned chicken, Progresso & Campbells Chunky Soups, Canned Yams, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Manwich, Ramen, Knorr Pasta Sides, Instant Potatoes: All flavors, Spaghetti Sauce, Dry Pasta - all varieties, Macaroni & Cheese, Spam, Canned Ham, Ketchup & Mustard, Assorted Canned vegetables, Assorted Condiments and Cooking oils (any). Thank you for your generosity.

Our **homebound members** are an important part of our congregation! Check out February's Member to Remember, **Nancy Kleinfelter**, on the large bulletin board.

Homebound birthday upcoming: Feb. 26, Ingrid Erb, Cornwall Manor, Corson Hall, PO Box 125, 1 Boyd St., Cornwall, PA 17016.

**Hersheypark**: Order forms for discount Hersheypark tickets and parking passes are on the bulletin board. The tickets and passes are good for any one day from April 5, 2025 through January 4, 2026. Tickets are \$44.95 (regular price \$89.95) and parking passes are \$26.00 (regular price \$35.00). March 9th is the last day to order tickets. If you have any questions contact Janet Bird at jbird75@comcast.net or 717-865-5636.

Serving at Zion's		Today	Next Sunday
Lector		Ггасу Ноу	Kerri Price
Prayer		₋ois Hiester	Larry Houser
Children's sermon		Christine Techky	Pastor Caitlin
Comm. Assts.		Kelly Rittle, Noel Strattan	Ed & Elaine Ludwig
Greeter			Cathy Houser
Acolyte		Greyson McQuaide	Madelyn Rittle, Gracie Bucks
Crucifer		Madison Hess	
Altar Guild		Merkel family	Strattan/
			Wenrich
Elevette		Гот Frey	Kadance Kugler
Ushers	Luke Hiester, Rick Herr Mar. 2 - Georgetta Wolfe		

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin	VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
SOUND: Houser family	PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz
Zion's Office: 717-865-2848 zions@comcast.net	Pastor's Office: 717-865-3652 pastorckurtz@gmail.com

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