

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 2024**



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Finding Our Way to New Beginnings

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Please be sure that all electronic devices are silenced.

*Indicates to stand, as able.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Prelude

***Gathering Call: "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place"**



Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Welcome

***Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

A: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our rock and refuge,

A: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

A: Amen.

Hymn:** ***“God, Whose Almighty Word” ELW 673

- 1 God, whose almighty word
 chaos and darkness heard
 and took their flight:
 hear us, we humbly pray,
 and where the gospel day
 sheds not its glorious ray,
 let there be light.

- 2 Christ, who once came to bring,
 on your redeeming wing,
 healing and sight;
 health to the troubled mind,
 sight where illusions blind;
 oh, now to humankind
 let there be light.

- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
 life-giving, holy dove,
 speed forth your flight;
 move on the water's face
 bearing the lamp of grace,
 and in earth's darkest place
 let there be light.

- 4 Holy and blessed three,
 glorious Trinity,
 Wisdom, Love, Might:
 boundless as ocean's tide,
 rolling in fullest pride,
 through the earth, far and wide,
 let there be light.


***Greeting**

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

A: And also with you.

***Glory to God**

pg. 204

 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Saviour, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all;
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news
may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

R: The word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

(Please read responsively – all join in on the bold verses)

¹ Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

² **The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³ The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴ **The Lord counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

⁵ Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶ **The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷ Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸ **who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹ God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰ **God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹ but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those

under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

R: The word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel: Mark 1:29-39**

L: The holy gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹ As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Message

Hymn:** ***"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW 843

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
 with a liberating light;
 praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
 turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the gospel,
 healing ev'ry dread disease,
 calming storms and feeding thousands
 with the very bread of peace.

- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
 with a strong yet gentle word;
 praise the One who drove out demons
 with a piercing, two-edged sword.
 Praise the One who brings cool water
 to the desert's burning sand;
 from this well comes living water
 quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
 Christ, who suffered in our place;
 Jesus died and rose for many
 that we may know God by grace.
 Let us sing for joy and gladness,
 seeing what our God has done.
 Praise the one redeeming glory;
 praise the One who makes us one.

***Apostles' 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 the People**

The response to: God of grace, is "receive our prayer."

Passing of Attendance Books

Offering

***Offertory Prayer**

L: Let us pray... Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

A: Amen.

MEAL

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Great Thanksgiving' section. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

L: 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 unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the 'Holy, Holy' section. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has four measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,'. The second staff has four measures: 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'. The third staff has four measures: 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The fourth staff has four measures: 'san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

L: 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:

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

L: 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.

A: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: 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.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

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

A: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

A: 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

L: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Sharing the Meal

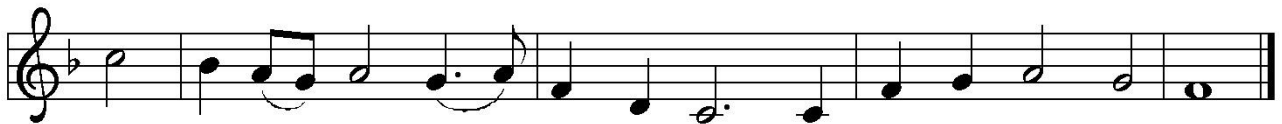
Holy Communion will be distributed at the rail. An usher will dismiss you by rows. Please walk down the center aisle to your side of the communion rail. Kneel or stand as you desire. Each table will be blessed prior to returning to pews. After you receive the blessing, return to your seat via the side aisle. A tray to dispose of your empty communion cup is located on the windowsill. Juice and gluten-free options are available upon your request, please be sure to inform your server. Please notify an usher if you need communion brought to your pew. All baptized believers are welcome at God's table.

Communion Hymn

"Lamb of God"



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*Prayer after Communion

L: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

A: Amen.

SENDING

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

*Blessing

L: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always.

A: Amen

***Sending Hymn:**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Announcements

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

A: We will. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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