

February 5, 2023 • Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion  *lutheran
church*

WELCOME TO ZION

We are a historic church that loves being part of the vibrant, growing community of northwest San Antonio. We bring people together knowing we are fallible and imperfect, and we help share God's love and grace.

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our modern lives with Christ.

Faith is an ever-present curiosity. As we live our daily lives, we explore God's teachings and respond with God's love by serving our community, locally and globally. If you're looking for a church that has all the answers for you – well, that isn't us!

We are a community of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here! So come and join us as we explore life with God.

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace - the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness life and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

Worship leaders guide us through sacrament and prayer and our responses are printed in bold type.

Throughout our service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. We invite you to receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or praise of God, rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

9:00 *Light of the Nations* by Andrew Moore

11:30 *Beginning Praise* arr. A.L. Page Handbell Choir

TEMPLE TALK Kathy Null, Stephen Ministry

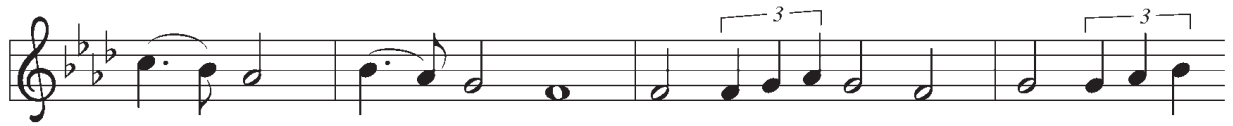
Please rise, as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
 tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
 throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 mouths to speak thy holy name.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 May the light which thou dost send
 fill our songs with alleluias,
 alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light of Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976
 Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944
 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Presiding Minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

9:00 CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 112

Refrain

Michael Guimont

A light ris - es in the dark - ness; a
light for the up - right.

They are lights in the darkness for the upright;
they are generous, merciful and just.
Good people take pity and lend,
they conduct their affairs with honor. *℟.*

The just will never waver,
they will be remembered for ever.

They have no fear of evil news;
with firm hearts they trust in the
LORD. *℟.*

With steadfast hearts they will not fear.
Openhanded, they give to the poor;
their justice stands firm for ever.
Their heads will be raised in glory. *℟.*

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SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There Is a Longing in Our Hearts



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the 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.

**catholic: universal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends: Merciful God,

Response: receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed to us in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit ZionSA.org. Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

9:00 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* setting by Wayne Wold

11:30 *Lord, Speak to Me* arr. Sandra Eithan Handbell Choir

Please rise, as you are able.

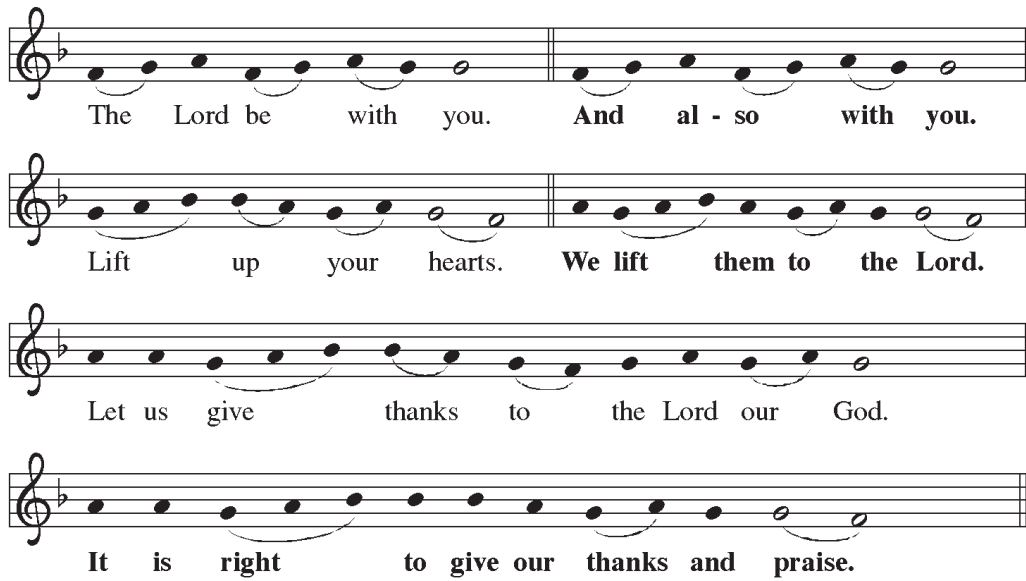
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful,

You bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

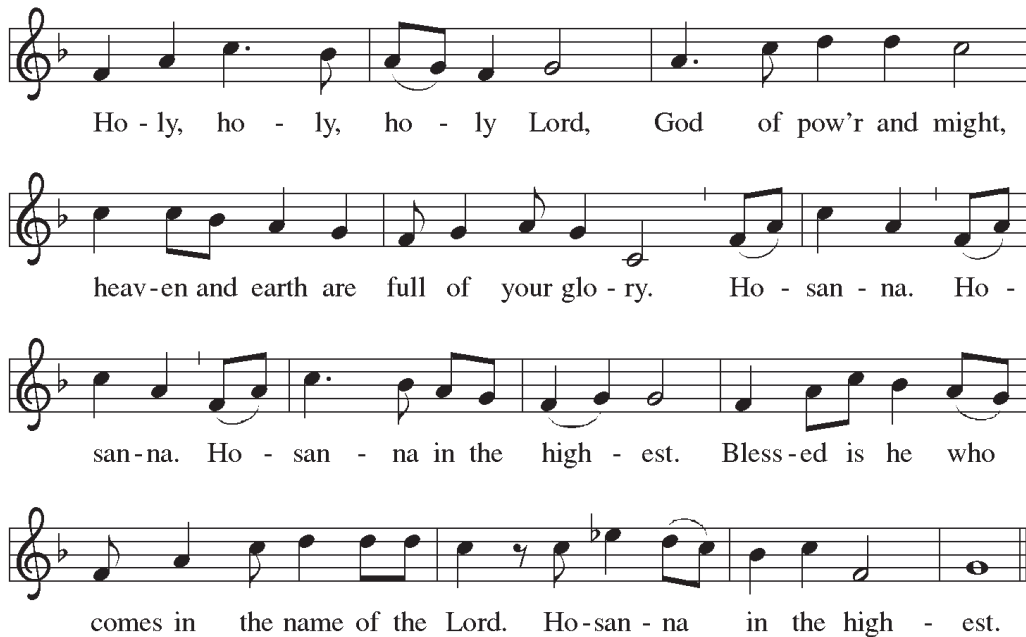
Amen.

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.

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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.
Come, Lord Jesus.

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.
Come, Holy Spirit.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has 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

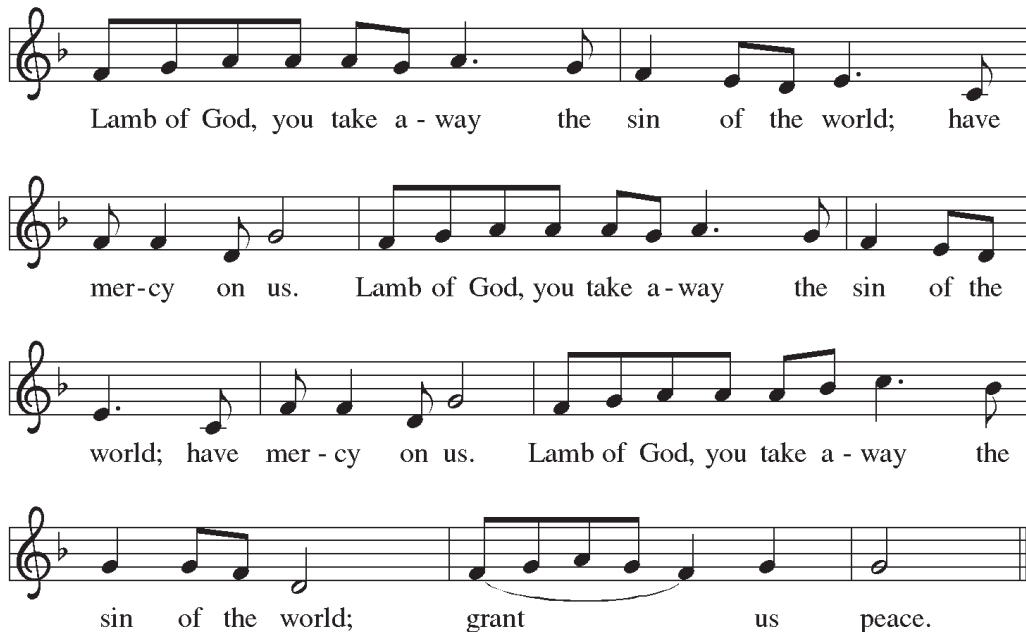
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

11:30

Humbly We Adore Thee arr. J.W. Krug

Handbell Choir

COMMUNION HYMN Light Shone in Darkness



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you always in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

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 HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Siyahamba setting by Marianne Kim

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - , kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-, *kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ *oo* _____
 We are march - ing _____ *oo* _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
 Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
 Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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We are dancing...
 We are praying...
 We are singing...

**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



Scan this QR code for
web calendar

Sunday, February 5

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class: Week Ahead	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Adult Class: Habits of the Household	10:15	MC 1 through 3/26
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, February 6

Game Group 1st/3rd	1pm	FLC 101
LMM Planning Mtg	6:30	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 7

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Children's Choir	7-7:45	Ministry Ctr 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, February 8

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers 2nd	9:30	MC 1
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship	6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, February 9

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Youth Night	6:30	Ministry Center
Fiesta Flutes	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry 2nd/4th	7pm	FLC 101

Friday, February 10

Xxx

Saturday, February 11

Weight Watchers Mtg	9am	Church 2
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Sunday, February 12

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour	10:15	Details next page
Adult Classes - Same as previous	10:15	
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

February Altar Guild

Chris and Don Jones

Alyssa Brodbeck, Suzi Lockamy

Mary Jo Goldenbaum

Belynda McKenzie, Kathy Null

Linda and Roy Tschirhart

Bread Offering

Susan Johns

Lay Readers

9:00

Kathy Null

11:30

Jeff Williams

Cantor

Celeste Mussey

Communion Servers

9:00

Linnell and Dave Brewton

11:30

LeShea Clabough and Kevin McGee

Livestream

David Umlang

Steve Johnson

Sound

Scott Van Doren

February Ushers

Dan Graham

Pam Gammage

Brandon Dubuisson

Mike DeHart, Chris Berg

Sunday Faith Formation

Children

Music Opening in MC 1 at 10:15
Children age three years and older meet in the new Ministry Center Room 1 for opening music with Ms. Sammy, then go to classrooms.

Youth Classes

Grade 6-7	MC Room 5
Grade 8-9	MC Room 7
Grade 10-12	MC Room 8

Adult Classes

Week Ahead Bible Study

10:15 at with Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall. Take a look at the lessons we have in worship each week. What's their context? How do we make sense of them as 21st century Christians?

Habits of the Household

Begins with Pastor Dan on February 5 (March 26) at 10:15 in MC 1. Adult forum based on the book of the same name, on practicing the story of God in everyday family rhythms. Presentations and small group discussions on waking, mealtimes, work, pay, conversation, bedtime and more.

Game Group

February 6 and 20 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in Family Life Center Room 101 on the first and third Mondays.



MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday February 8 in MC Room 1
Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) supports moms by building community for growth in faith and as parents. Monthly meetings are in Zion's Ministry Center from 9:30-noon on the second Wednesday. They also are in need of adult volunteers to provide child care those second Wednesdays.

Scan the QR to contact Nicole Stender
(mops@zionsa.org) to register, volunteer or get more info!



Youth Night February 9 & 23

Middle & High School Dinner and Fellowship
6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

On the second and fourth Thursdays, Zion's high school and middle school youth meet to enhance their impact on their community, collectively -- with service projects, Bible discussion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and something else fun -- to build a community on mission.

Allen Cockrell and Kim DeHart are helping with this. Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have enough food and supplies!



Weeknight Study begins March 2

Jesus of the East: Reclaiming the Gospel for the Wounded.

Meets via Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 7 to 8pm.

Email Pastor Kathi (kjohnson@zionsa.org) for more info or to sign up. The book is available on Amazon or at Bookshop.org.



Stephen Ministers - They are Among Us!

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Bible describes their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).

If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A training class is starting soon.

Check out our table in the gazebo and talk with current Stephen Ministers after the service today!

If you would like to request help from a Stephen Minister, contact LeShea Clabough by calling the Zion office at: 210-688-3090

Fundraiser BBQ for Habitat for Humanity

Holy Smoke

BBQ Plate Fund-Raiser for
Habitat for Humanity
Sunday, February 26, 2023
Serving 10:00am - 1:00pm

\$12 Suggested Advance Donation
\$6 Child's meal (ages 3-11)
\$14 Suggested at the Door

Brisket - Sausage - Beans - Potato Salad (Desserts a la carte)
Prepared by Zion's Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion

Habitat for Humanity

Tickets are on sale today, in the gazebo.

Your 2022 Contribution Statement

Statements were e-mailed to you on January 25. If you have not received your statement, please check your e-mail spam folder, and call the church office at 210-688-3090 if it is still missing.

CONTACT



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8:30am-5:00pm
Friday close at 3:00pm

STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday

kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday

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Rob Mikulski - Monday

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Sammy Mikulski - Monday

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**FEBRUARY 5, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



The power of knowing Christ crucified.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light
Monday	Isaiah 58:1-12	False and true worship
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	True wisdom of God
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	1 Peter 4:12-16	Suffering as a Christian
Friday	James 1:2-8	Faith and wisdom
Saturday	Psalms 112	Blessings of the righteous
Sunday	Matthew 5:21-37	Teachings of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*When I [Paul] came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. **1 Corinthians 2:1-2 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, give us your wisdom to see in the cross of Christ the path of love, humility, and service to others above all else. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food give us strength to care for the needs of others as you care for us each and every day. In the name of Jesus, our crucified Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you take delight in the wisdom of God through our crucified Lord Jesus Christ.



FEBRUARY 5, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Lift High the Cross



**taking⁺
faith
home**

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What motivates people to show they are more powerful than others?
- How does God show wisdom and power through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16.

The Corinthian church was a divided church. Some thought they had superior wisdom or superior spiritual gifts. Paul rejects such claims by focusing on God's wisdom revealed through Jesus Christ. Jesus was crucified and died a criminal's death at the hands of earthly powers. Those who believe they have superior wisdom and gifts totally miss the point and rely on human standards—human wisdom—not God's. Paul's own ministry demonstrates the wisdom of God that seems like foolishness to the world. Paul did not use impressive speech. He used the message of Christ crucified, a message made powerful by the Holy Spirit, not human rhetoric. To be truly "spiritual," and therefore a blessing to the church, one needs to be grounded in spiritual wisdom that understands the power of the cross. This power can look like weakness. The very standards the arrogant use to feel superior shows their dependence on the powers and wisdom of the current age, not the power and wisdom of God through Christ crucified.

Discuss: Being forgiven can look like weakness. How can it be a powerful gift to the life of the church?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to see that in the death of Jesus your power is present to guide our daily lives and bring faith, hope, and love to all the world. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help people who feel put down by others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too! God is present in our daily lives. The home is where people are connected in intimate daily settings. Where we call home can be diverse. Matthew 5:15-16 reminds us that we don't hide the light of a lamp under a basket. We place it where "it gives light to all in the house." Jesus tells us we are the light of the world and invites us to shine our light so that others may see our good works and give glory to God. Light a candle each day this week. While you gaze at the light, think or talk about what "good works" (v. 16) you have done that day and how what you did gives glory to God.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org