

January 7, 2024 • Epiphany of Our Lord
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion lutheran
church

WELCOME TO ZION

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 lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group 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!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please 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.

ON THE COVER
2024

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

Vom Himmel hoch (From Heaven Above)
setting by Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise, as you are able.

INVOCATION

We worship today in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING DIALOGUE (IF ONLY)

The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;

All of us who live in deep darkness

On us, light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,

A son has been given to us;

He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Praise be to Christ,

Who reigns in glory!

Section end. Section end.



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way—
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out!
Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



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



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.

Please be seated.

Singing time

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

Story Bible

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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.

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

PSALM 72

1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great-er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit-ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in-cense bring;

Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.

You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark-ness turn to light,
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in your sight.
 and right-eous-ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
 your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

Words: James Montgomery, 1822, P.D.
 Music (ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D): German; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904, P.D.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although 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, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so 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. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Kathi Johnson

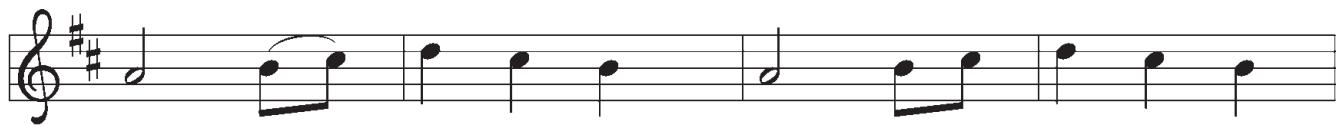
Please rise, as you are able.



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain

night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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

As we celebrate Christ coming to dwell among us, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each petition ends: God of grace,

Please respond:

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

We Three Kings, setting by Marilyn Biery

Please rise, as you are able.

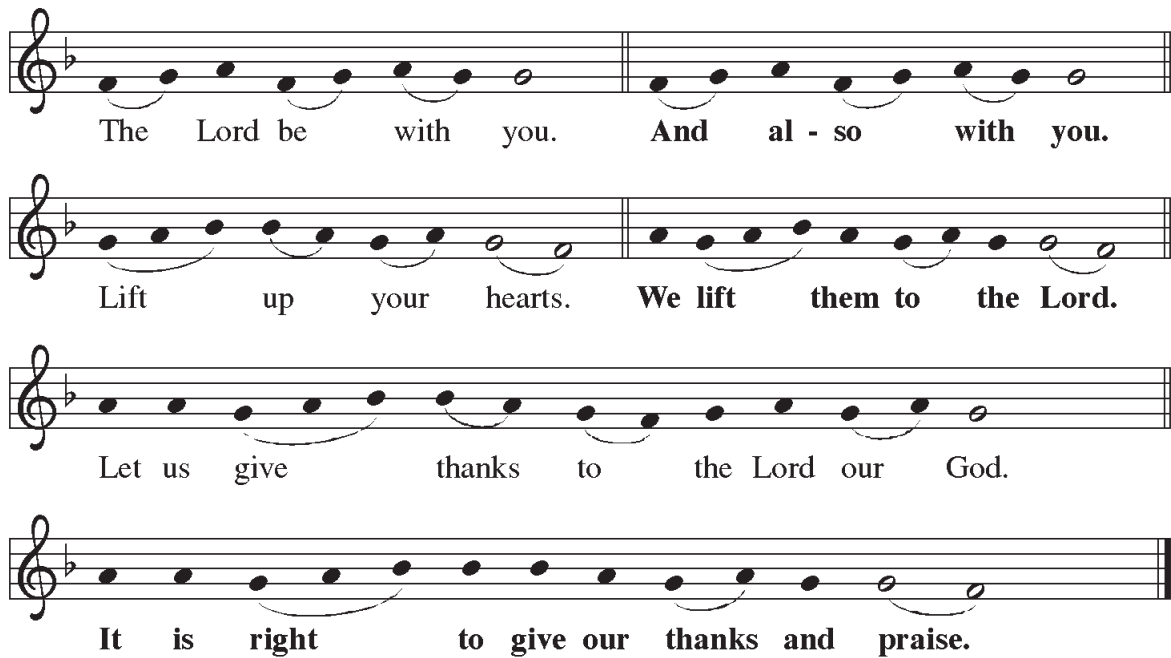
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

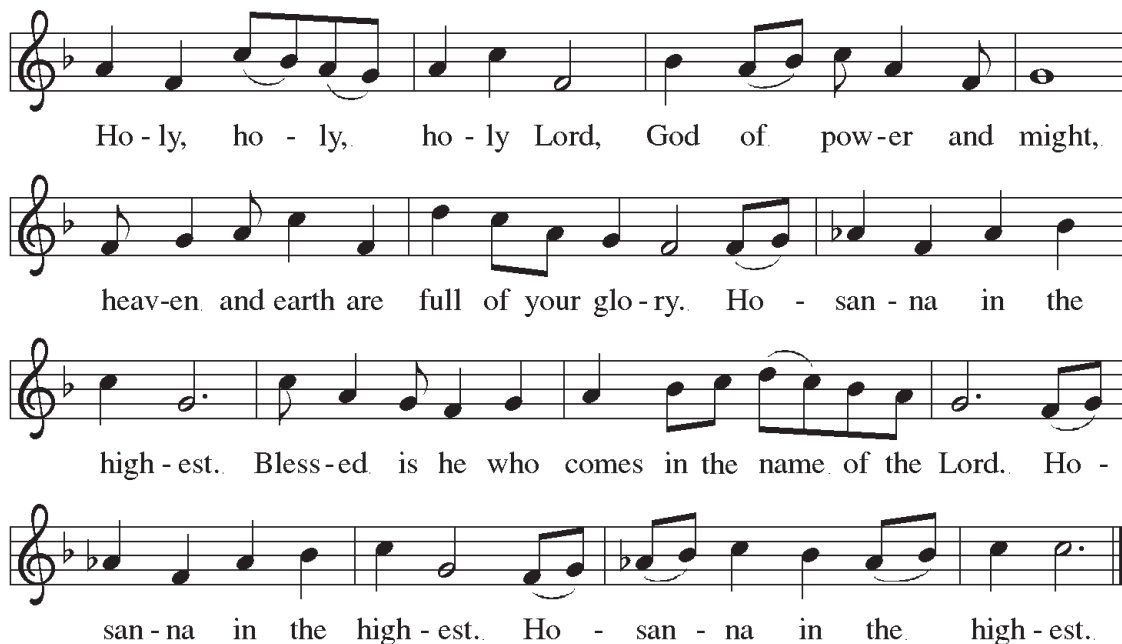
[Next page](#)

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. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your ✠ Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, 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

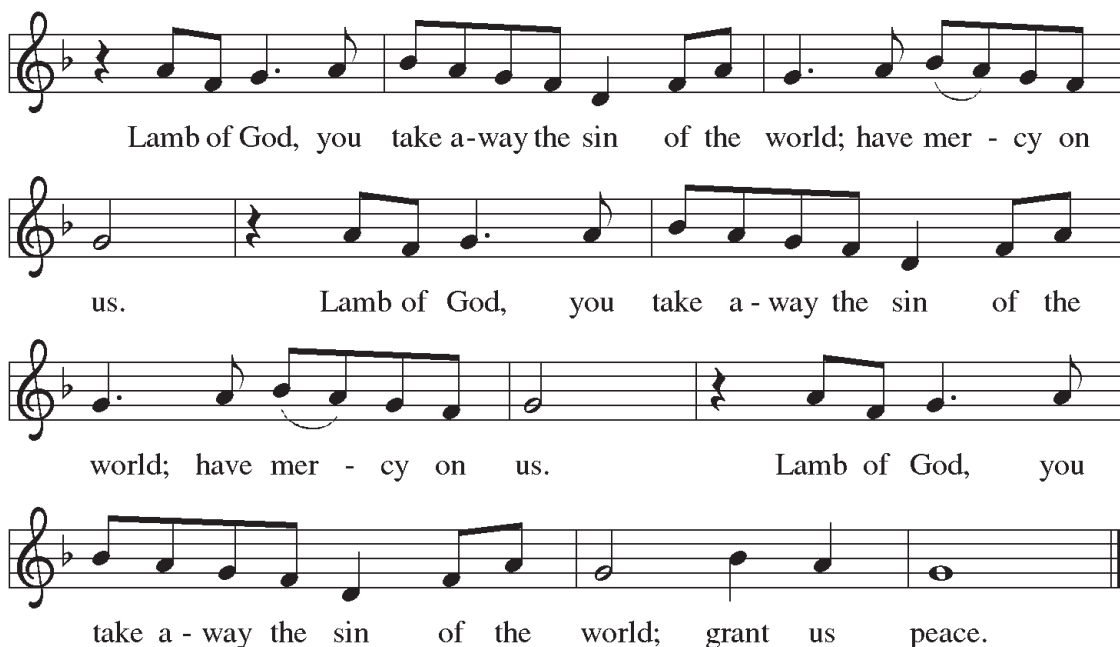
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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.



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
 owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

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. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Section end

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (next page)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

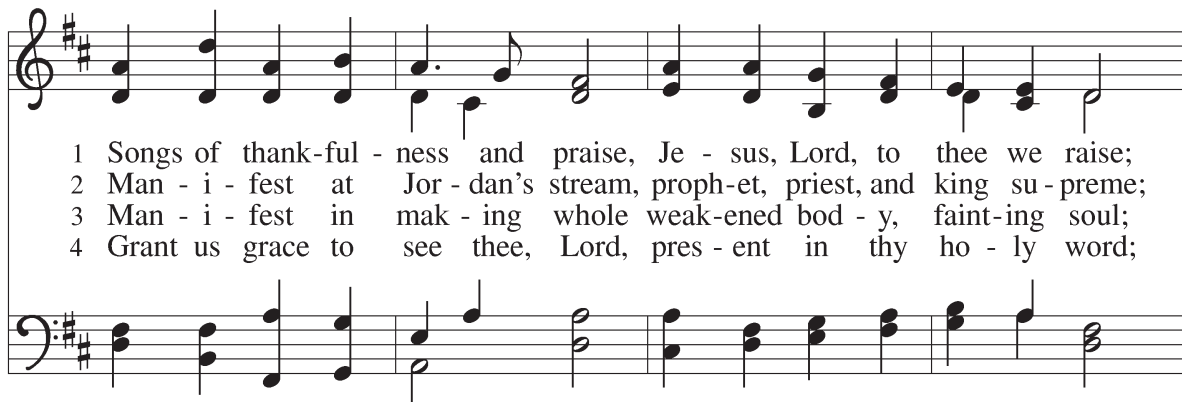
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

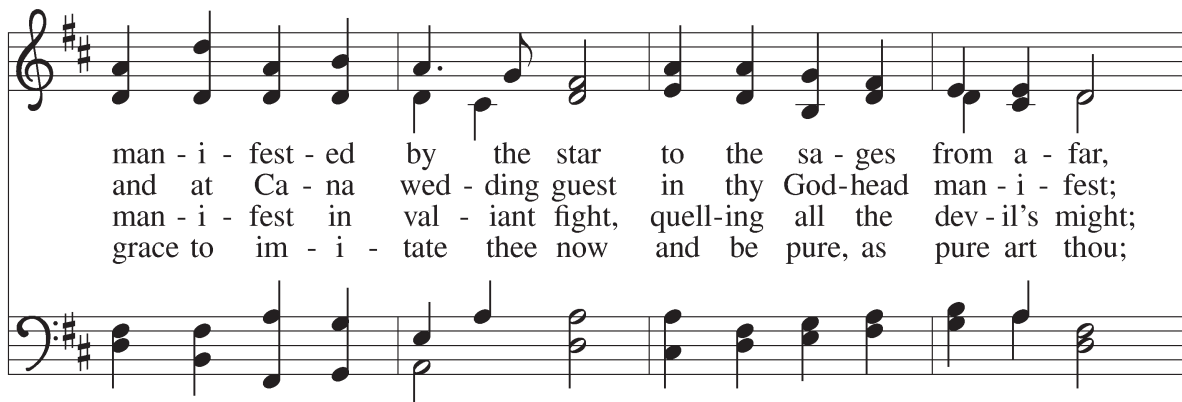
Wie schön leuchtet (O Morning Star)
setting by Kenneth Kosche

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

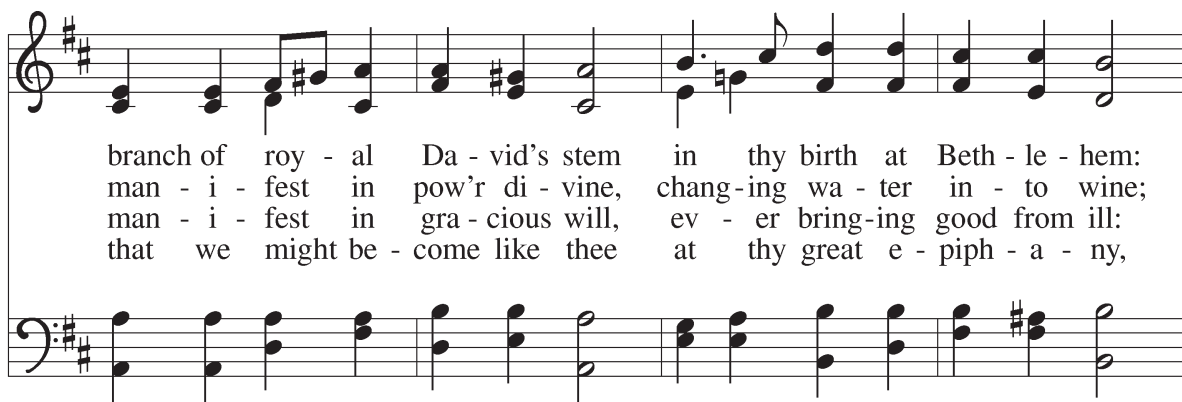
Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.



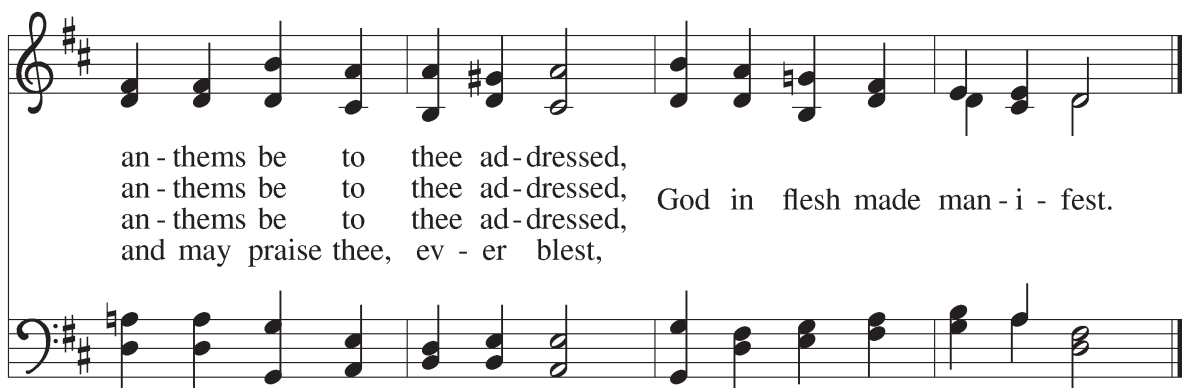
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard
Mona McQuien, Ruth Medbury
Karen Sturdivant, Laura Walsh

Lay Reader

9:00 Paul Goldenbaum
11:30 Jeff Williams

Communion Servers

9:00 Bev Rosel, Kathy Null
11:30 Jennifer Kretzschmar
Karen Umlang

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

Ushers

9:00 Doris & Dave Newman
LeShea Clabough &
Kevin McGee
Karen & James Sturdivant
Suzanne & John Warren
11:30 Kim & Mike DeHart
Joanna & Mel Arviso

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Today, Sunday, January 7

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Intergenerational Epiphany Event	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanctuary & YouTube
Dinner by Reserved Table	1:30	Family Life Center
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	2:30	Family Life Center

Monday, January 8

Zion Zippers Potluck Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, January 9

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study & More, with Lunch (details page 23)	10am	Fellowship Hall
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanctuary Balcony
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, January 10

MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers	9:30	Ministry Center 1
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Chapel (Church 1)
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, January 11

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Youth Night	6:30	Ministry Center
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2

Friday, January 12

Dinner by Reserved Table	6:30	Family Life Center
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	7:30	Family Life Center

Calendar continued next page

Saturday, January 13

Weight Watchers Meetings	7:30 & 9:30am	Church 2
Texas A&M Singing Cadets	7pm	Sanctuary
Dinner by Reserved Table	6:30	Family Life Center
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	7:30	Family Life Center

Sunday, January 14

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour for all ages	10:15	Details next page
What Goes into Planning Worship?	10:20	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Dinner by Reserved Table	1:30	Family Life Center
<i>The Play That Goes Wrong</i>	2:30	Family Life Center
Nat'l Youth Gathering Pre-Trip Mtg	6:30	MC - 1

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm
in Church 1

Simple communion worship services
in Zion's historic chapel.

Music Rehearsals

Handbells		
Tuesday 6:30		Balcony
Children's (Gr 2-5)		
Tuesday 7-7:45		MC Rm 1
Youth (Gr 6-12)		
Tuesday 7-8pm		Apse
Chancel (Adult)		
Wednesday 7:15		Sanctuary

January 14: Faith Formation for Children and Youth at 10:15

Meet in Ministry Center classrooms.

Age or Grade	Room
Two Years-Kinder	MC-3
Grades 1-4	MC-4
Grades 5-7	MC-5
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Grades 8-9	MC-7
High School Grades 10-12	MC-8

Zion Theatre Group presents



The **PLAY** *that goes* **WRONG**

January 5-7 & 12-14
ztg.booktix.com

Theatre seating still available online (use QR or ZTG.booktix.net). Contact Sammy Mikulski at 210-688-3090 or theatre@zionsa.org to ask about availability for dinner seating.



Next Adult Class Series January 14: *What Goes Into Planning Worship?*

This class begins on January 14 in the Fellowship Hall at about 10:20. Join Pastor Kathi and Director of Music Ministries Rob Mikulski for a five-week series about planning worship.

Topics include: how we plan liturgies for Sundays and Wednesdays, how sermons are written, how do we plan ahead AND allow room for the Holy Spirit to work?

STAFF CONTACT*Day Off*

Pastor Kathi Johnson
kjohanson@ZionSA.org

Monday

Pastor Dan Heim
dheim@ZionSA.org

Friday

Suzie Wyatt,
Administrator
swyatt@ZionSA.org

*Thursday
afternoon*

Rob Mikulski,
Music Director
rmikulski@ZionSA.org

Monday

Sammy Mikulski,
Theatre Director
theatre@ZionSA.org

Monday

**2024 CONGREGATION
COUNCIL**

Bud Halstead *President*

Allen Cockrell *Treasurer*

Other Council officers TBD.

Erica Macha, Chris Jones,
David Umlang, Rachel Williams, Shi-
loh Love, Pr. Kathi Johnson,
Pr. Dan Heim

Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

Monday, January 8

Zion Zippers meet on the second Monday of each month for a potluck dinner. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please bring a dish or two to share, along with your own plate and utensils if you can. Invite a friend, too!

January's entertainment is BUNCO! Contact Kathy Newman if you have a question or suggestion.

Women of Zion General Meeting & Lunch

Tuesday, January 9 at noon in the Fellowship Hall

Come to the Fellowship Hall 10:15 for the WOZ Bible Study & More circle. Stay for the general meeting immediately after. Lunch will be served.

WOZ Bible Study & More meets on the 2nd Tuesday. Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.



Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first room on the right. Bring your own project to work on.

Quilting for LWR

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:30am

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Come on out on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Diane Stewart if you need more details.

The LWR Quilters are in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during any quilting time.



MOPS Chapter at Zion

Wednesday January 10 in MC Room 1

Zion MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

supports moms by building community

for growth in faith and as parents. Month-

ly 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 Nights/Confirmation Mentoring

January 11 and 25 Dinner and Fellowship

6:30-8:30 in Ministry Center

Every other Thursday, Zion's high school and middle
school youth meet to enhance their impact on their com-
munity, collectively – with service projects, Bible discus-
sion that relates to their daily lives, dinner and some-
thing else fun – to build a community on mission.

Please use the QR code to RSVP so we have
enough food and supplies! Suggested meal
offering is \$4.



UPDATE to Zion's Aluminum Collection

Zion is currently collecting ONLY aluminum cans in the
swing-top collection barrel in the south (cemetery side)
parking lot, next to the shed. For the health and safety of
our volunteers:

- Please empty, dry, and crush aluminum beverage cans, without any food or beverage residue that will attract vermin.
- Do not include plastic-lined cans, steel cans or other metal in this swing-top aluminum can collection barrel.
- Do not put paper, plastic, food or any other trash in this swing-top aluminum can collection barrel. A trash can is provided nearby, plus a bin for non-aluminum recyclables.

OFFICE CONTACT



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



210-688-3090



zion@zionsa.org



Website zionsa.org



Facebook zionsa



Instagram @zionsatx



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*Your
generosity
empowers
Zion's ministry*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION®
AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH • SAN ANTONIO

Men's Fellowship Dinner

Third Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

Game Group

January 15 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Mondays. Algine Perry is the coordinator.

Dinner Out at Umberto's Italian Grill

Thursday, February 1 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet next month at Umberto's Italian Grill, 7616 Culebra Road (at Ingram Road). Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by January 28 to Doris & Dave Newman; call the church office if you need their contact info.

Epiphany Reflection

The nativity scene has changed a bit again. The poorest of the poor - the shepherds - have left and gone back to their flocks in the fields. Today, we remember the Epiphany - the revealing - of Our Lord to the nations as he is visited by “wise men from the East” (Matthew 2).

We aren't sure where these wise men came from, exactly, but they were likely astrologers who were used to looking for signs of world events in the stars. They saw a star rising over the place where Jesus was, and knew he was destined to be a king. Matthew tells us that they are there to pay this new king homage, and they bring gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh with them - three gifts that are appropriate for a king in that era. Over the centuries of folklore, these wise men have morphed into kings themselves, but Scripture doesn't refer to them as kings at all.

Epiphany as a Christian celebration has been observed since at least the 4th Century A.D. Different Christians around the world celebrate it in different forms, even to this day. As Lutherans, we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord as a day that Christ was revealed to the nations, shown to the wise men who traveled a great distance to visit Christ, the King.

What's fascinating to me is Matthew's account of their reaction when they arrive to where Jesus is: “they were overwhelmed with joy,” Matthew tells us. To me, this feels like the kind of joy that can only come from God - the kind of joy that is so encompassing that it overwhelms our entire selves. This response leads me to consider when in my own life I have been overwhelmed with joy, and to respond with gratitude to God. What about you? Something to think about.

In peace,
Pastor Kathi

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministers
are the
Care-Givers,
God Is the
Cure-Giver.



The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing. If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, talk with one of our Stephen Leaders to learn more about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: 210-688-3090

**JANUARY 7, 2024
OBSERVING THE
EPIPHANY OF
OUR LORD**



Christians are fellow heirs, members of the same body.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany observances.

Saturday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Crowds coming to Jerusalem
	Ephesians 3:1-12	Paul's mission to the Gentiles
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Prayer to guide the king
	Matthew 2:1-12	The visit of the wise men

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

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.

Ephesians 3:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:

God of the nations, unite your church through your rule of justice and mercy so that all may see your grace through Jesus Christ born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, may this gift of food remind us of your daily care for us and all those in need through Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your life.



JANUARY 7, 2024

HYMN FOR EPIPHANY

We All Are One in Mission



EPIPHANY 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:

- Give examples of times or places when unity is important.
- How is the unity of the church consistent with God's mission of reconciliation in Christ?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 3:1-12.

The wise men from the east are a central part of Epiphany. They represent the world far from the Jewish and biblical center of Israel and Jerusalem. They do not know the God of Israel. They follow the stars, not the Scriptures. Epiphany reminds us that the good news of Jesus is to reach all the world. Ephesians truly grasps this message. The unity of Jews and Gentiles reveals what Jesus' saving work is about. Ephesians sees the unity of the church as the very example of the gospel. Gentiles are now "*fellow heirs, members of the same body*" (v. 6). God's epiphany or self-revelation is centered on Jesus who has come for all to know and to receive the "*gift of God's grace*" (v. 7). Unity was a very real challenge to the New Testament church. Tensions existed between communities of Jewish and Gentile Christians. The church today is to hear and respond to that same message of one body in Christ. All Christians share equally in God's mission.

Discuss: How do you think honoring all believers as equal recipients of God's grace contributes to the mission of the church?

Pray: **Loving God, your message of grace and peace shines brightly for all. Give us faith to boldly be part of the one body and mission of the church through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Bible Readings and theme for Epiphany, how can you reach out to those different from you with care and support ?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



For centuries Epiphany Day was the second most important church festival, even more important than Christmas. The church celebrates the time when Jesus was made known to the wider world through the visit of the wise men (Magi). Epiphany is also associated with the blessing of homes as a place to welcome friends and strangers. The Magi followed a star that led them to Jesus. In remembrance of this journey, light a candle during your devotional time to symbolize Jesus as the light of the world and to remind you of the star the Magi followed to the Christ child.

Say this blessing: **Lord Jesus, light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen.**



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