

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

January 26, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



ELCA

arr. By Hayes

PRELUDE

“Be Glorified”

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,

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 lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

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.

Amen.



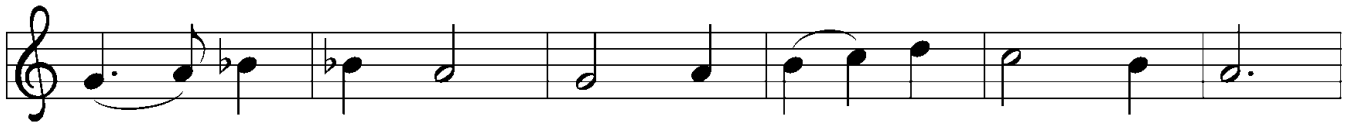
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



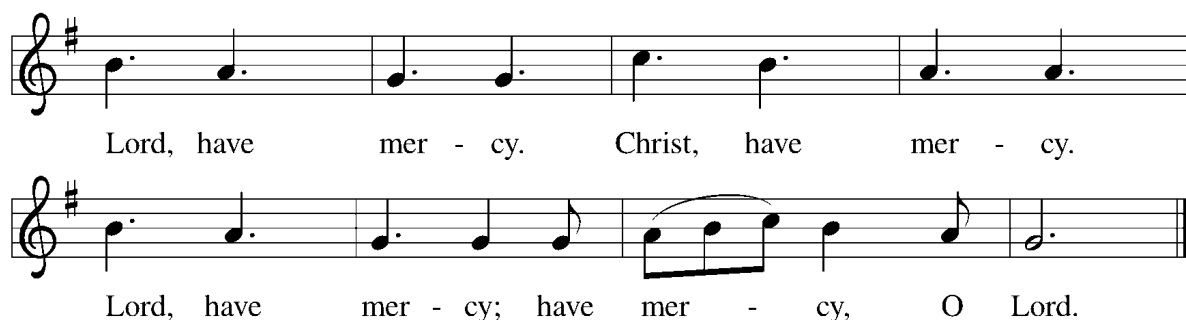
wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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.

KYRIE (Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy") Red Hymnal #154



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE "O Beauty Ever Ancient" (from ACS #1100)



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,
di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
Refrain
in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

SONG

“More Precious Than Silver”

Lynn DeShazo

Lord, You are more pre - cious than sil - ver,

5 Lord, You are more cost - ly than gold. -

9 Lord, You are more beau - ti - ful - than dia - monds and

13 no - thing I de - sire com - pares with You.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³

and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

God's word of light.

Guide us O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Celtic Alleluia"

Red Hymnal #174

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled

the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG “Build A Longer Table” (from ACS #1062)



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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 CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

PRAYER CANDLES

This is a time of prayer at your seat or light a candle at the two prayer stations.

You can request a prayer at the prayer table by the piano.

Feel free to pray, sing, sit in silence and pray for others.

Spirit of the Living God

Musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God". The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Spirit of the living God fall a-fresh on me" (repeated on the first and fourth staves), "Melt me Mold me Fill me Use me" (on the second and third staves), and "Spirit of the living God fall a-fresh on me" (on the fourth staff). The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“I Speak Jesus”

Jodi Beach

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com or you can click on the QR code.

TABLE BLESSING

“Come to the Table”

Red Hymnal #481



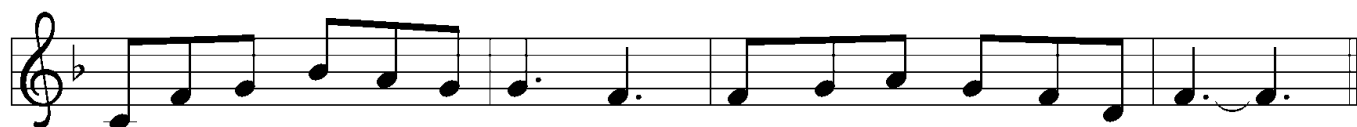
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS "One Bread, One Body" Red Hymnal #496

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;

one cup of blessing which we bless,

and we, though many throughout the earth,

we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.

2 Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.

“Taste and See”

Red Hymnal #493

Refrain: Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.

Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me.

2. Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free.

3. Worship the Lord, all you people.

You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good;
in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “The Spirit Sends Us Forth Serve” Red Hymnal #551

- 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.
- 2 We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.
- 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE “This Little Light of Mine” arr. By Mark Hayes

WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Connie Heden
 Fellowship:
 Media:
 Music: Jodi Beach
 Readers: Jane Lightcap
 Sound: Deangelo Brunson
 Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



WORSHIP LEADERS Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date: During January we are requesting donations of **Pancake Mix and/or Syrup** for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you so much for your help! There is a group of women that send Christmas cards to our area assisted living facilities. This year they sent out 3000 cards to residents! They are asking to collect more cards for next year. If you have any unused cards with envelopes, would you please bring them to church. Just leave them in the Narthex or the church office. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Grapevine for WOZ activities. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY at Zion, 9:30am in the Nursery. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups



UPDATES NEEDED

The Missions Team would like anyone who has a current active relative in the Military, to bring in a current picture with their name and current branch of service. Also if you would like to furnish the office with their address for anyone who would like to contact them with words of encouragement.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer
 as little as 2 hours a month
 Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,
 and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.
 Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

Cornucopia



Food Pantry

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

www.youtube.com/zionrockford

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>

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YouTube

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PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of loved ones of Lisa Palmeno, and Sherry Taylor..
- ◇ For healing: Dana, Eloise Anderson, David Bates, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Student Pastor Rachel. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship Third Sunday After Epiphany
	10:30am	Congregation Annual Meeting—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Nursery
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	5:00pm	Human Resource Committee—Fellowship Hall
	6:00pm	Church Council—Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Saturday	9:00am	Valentine Festival and Indoor Market—Katie's Cup
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

UPCOMING

February 11	8:30am	RVC English as a second language resumes
February 16	10:30am	Forum: Alzheimer Association—Fellowship Hall
February 18	3:00pm	Zion Outreach Board — Multipurpose Room
February 23	10:30am	Forum: Reconciled in Christ Synod and Congregation led by Pastor Thomas
March 2	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation with Olson Funeral Home
March 9	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk
March 16	10:30am	Forum: Bahai Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall
May 31	8am-4pm	Trip to the Bahai Temple in Wilmette, IL

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>