

**He passed through the midst of
them and went on his way.**

~ Luke 4:14-30

Sunday, January 26, 2025
Third Sunday after Epiphany

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Three

Regular font: Worship Leader; Bold font: Congregation

GATHERING

WELCOME

Please stand

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

ELW 775

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

pg. 138

GLORY TO GOD

pg. 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

WORD

Please be seated

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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

¹ The heavens declare the glo-^lry of God,
and the sky proclaims its^l maker’s handiwork.

² **One day tells its tale^l to another,
and one night imparts knowledge^l to another.**

³ Although they have no^l words or language,
and their voices^l are not heard,

⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends^l of the world,
where God has pitched a tent^l for the sun.**

⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out^l of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to^l run its course.

⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of^l it again;
nothing is hidden from its^l burning heat.**

⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-^lvives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom^l to the
simple.

⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and re-^ljoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light^l to the
eyes.**

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and en-^ldures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous^l altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than^l much fine
gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey^l in the comb.**

¹¹ By them also is your ser-^lvant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is^l great reward.

¹² **Who can detect one’s^l own offenses?
Cleanse me from my^l secret faults.**

¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not
get dominion^l over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a^l great offense.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable^l in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and^l my redeemer.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:14-30

The holy gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

²¹ Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all

in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “Let Streams of Living Justice” **ELW 710**

APOSTLES' CREED

pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery (especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church (especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe), and beloved friends and family who have died (especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

pg. 128

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. **Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 144

It is indeed right...

SANCTUS

pg. 144

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (*Traditional*)

pg. 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 146

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Thee We Adore, O Savior”

ELW 476

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 496

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" **ELW 314**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:	Helen A	Phil O	Nancy G.
Clara W	Allen H	Peter W	
Joyce G	Matthew A	Milluzzo and	For Safety:
Bill B	Bud J	Neri families	Andrew C
Cathy L	Marjorie F	Joan A	Todd S
Marion B	Jessica A	Shirley C	Michael C
Lily V	Charlotte D	Diane E	Tyler G
Holly N	Jonathan A	Dick C	Erik B
Dylan G	Pauline N	Karen R	Justin Earl B
Lisa A	Curt R	Carol J	Evan G
Aiden J	Matthew S	Stacey T	David P

SERVING TODAY

Donna Cote - Lector
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant
Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson, Adam Stall-Ryan
- Ushers/Greeters
Donna Marlow - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



Today:

Annual Meeting Notice:

THE ANNUAL MEETING will take place today,
January 26, 2025 immediately following the
Service. The Snow date is **February 2, 2025.**

Join the celebration of Portland's Black History

The Portland Historical Society, Committee on
Solidarity and Public Library present:

Voices of Portland, A Black History Month Panel

February 22 at Portland Middle School at 1:00 p.m.

Register/Questions: 860-342-6770

portlandlibraryct.org/voices-of-portland



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill.

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for January, February and March** are available in the Narthex and the Red Box outside the door with the doorbell.

MHVC Seeking Tenors and Basses

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chord family, under the direction of musical director Samuel Tucker and accompanied by an eight-piece orchestra directed by the talented Alan Dougherty, is seeking tenors and basses to join our chorus. No auditions necessary!

If you have been considering doing something this year to enhance your life, make new friends and reduce stress levels, please consider joining our musical family. Rehearsals begin Tuesday, January 21st at 6:45-9:00 at Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, St Francis Church, 10 Elm Street, Middletown, CT, for our upcoming spring concert on Saturday, May 3rd, 7:00 pm at Portland High School. New members accepted through February 4th. For more information, visit us on the web at vocalchords20.org or call Joyce at 860-342-3120. Also, check us out on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES

JANUARY 2025

ELCA.org/wildfires

In early January, multiple wildfires broke out across Los Angeles County in California, with over 100,000 people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life.

This disaster is just one of many — including hurricanes, war and famine — to which Lutheran Disaster Response is still responding. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond quickly and generously, whenever and wherever disaster may strike.

Though we don't yet know the full impact of the fires, Lutheran Disaster

Response is here to support the families and communities that will be rebuilding their lives. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs amid the destruction as well as to assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by wildfires and other disasters. By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you give the gift of relief today and resilience tomorrow.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

- Lutheran Disaster Response \$ _____ DDG0060
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *U.S. Wildfires* \$ _____ DDG0077

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Note: make your check payable to **Zion Lutheran Church and write **Lutheran Disaster Response** or **U.S. Wildfires** on your check's memo line. We will send them in one check.**

Today: January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: **6:00 p.m.** N/A

Friday: **7:00 p.m.** N/A

Next Sunday:

February 2, 2025

4th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. The Chosen video

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church



Attendance: Last week - 38; Last year - 44

Next weeks readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84;
Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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