



Be merciful,  
just as your  
Father is  
merciful

~ Luke 6:36

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**  
*Seventh 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** “Lift Every Voice and Sing” **ELW 841**

## **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**

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

*Please be seated*

### **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept

upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40**

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who  
succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- <sup>1</sup> dance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from <sup>1</sup> you,  
O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and <sup>1</sup> rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in  
you <sup>1</sup> they seek refuge.

**SECOND READING:**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other

grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 6:27-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing

in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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** “In All Our Grief”

**ELW 615**

**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.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care

(especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (other ministries may be named). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. 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**

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## **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**

“Now We Join in Celebration” **ELW 462**

“We Place upon Your Table, Lord” **ELW 467**

**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** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

(vs. 1-4)

**ELW 619**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude:*



## **Prayer List**

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

### **SERVING TODAY**

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

### **Weather Closings**

Weather closings will be available on ABC,  
NBC, CBS and FOX61.

### **Council Members:**

Kathy Richards- President  
Geri Pearson - Vice President  
Barbara Helming - Secretary  
Richard Borg, Jr. - Treasurer

**Other members:** Paula Brown Beth Keser, Phil Olson,  
Robert Redman, Peter Willse, Pamela Nordstrom,  
Christine Kelsey

HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL CARE



**Manes & Motions  
Therapeutic  
Riding Center**

**Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.** in Middletown, CT is currently seeking dedicated and compassionate

community members, 14 years of age and older, who are interested in becoming active volunteers in our therapeutic riding program.

Some open roles include:

Side-walkers

Horse leaders

Office work

Barn maintenance

...and more!

Onsite training is provided and no experience is required for many roles.



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

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**

**SPRING GATHERING 2025**

You're Invited! With a special invitation to the ELCA women of eastern Connecticut to the Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts Conference of the New England WELCA.

April 5, 2025, 9:00-1:45 p.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

212 Main St. Foxboro, MA 02035

Breakfast and lunch provided.

Fee: \$20 per person, RSVP to [office@lcor.org](mailto:office@lcor.org) before 4/1

Send questions to Loni Ivanovskis at [lonibelle63@yahoo.com](mailto:lonibelle63@yahoo.com)

We will also be collecting a gift-in-kind of new or gently-used small kitchen appliances (drip coffee makers particularly needed)

A free-will offering during worship for NEWELCA will also be gathered.



**Grace Guild** will be collecting donations of **Groceries and Personal items** for the Food Bank during the **month of March**.



**Life Line Screening** will be here at Zion on **Tuesday, April 29th** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If

you would like to register for an appointment call 1-800-640-6307 or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HC](https://www.llsa.org/SOCIAL/HC)



**Adult Education** continues this year with “The Chosen”. Episodes will be shown on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Discussions will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**Today, Sunday Feb. 23rd** after the worship service the Anniversary Committee will be holding their final event. A coffee hour with a slide show presentation put together by Tom Keser will be shown. It only lasts about 30 minutes so we hope that you will be able to join us. It will be a great opportunity not only for fellowship but to reminisce and learn a lot about our amazing church.

Also, The History Room (library) will be open until Sunday March 2nd. If you haven't seen it yet or would like to see it again now is the time. Thanks again to everyone who helped make 2024 a year to remember.

**Today: February 23, 2025**

**7th Sunday after Epiphany**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:15 a.m.** Sunday School

**10:30 a.m.** History Event

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

**4:00 p.m.** Spiritual Salon (in Sanctuary)

**This Week:**

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

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

**Next Sunday:**



**March 2, 2025**

**8th 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 - 0; Last year - 58

Next weeks readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

**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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