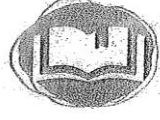


First Sunday After The Epiphany

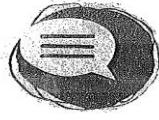
January 7th 2024 9:30am



Share



Read



Talk



Pray



Bless

Preparation For Worship: May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!
Psalm 29:11

Opening Song

He Has Come For Us

God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray

O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name

O tidings of comfort and joy comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life

All the angels sing hallelujah - Jesus Christ is born
All the children sing hallelujah - He is Christ the Lord

He has come for us this Jesus
He's the hope for all mankind
He has come for us the Messiah
Born to give us life
(He is born to give us life)

Angels sing hallelujah - Jesus Christ is Lord
All the children sing hallelujah - He is Christ the Lord

Invocation

Pastor: We gather today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God the Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**People: The promised Messiah came! We celebrate the Epiphany of His coming. Emmanuel is God with us, and Christ will come again! He is the Prince of Peace, and Lord of all!
God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: All the time!

Pastor: God is good!

People: Let us come to Him then with an honest heart to worship Him in spirit and truth.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We confess our need of forgiveness, and that God's forgiveness is the gift that leads to newness of life. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger, died on a cross, and risen from the grave: All to redeem us from sin, death, the devil, and our sinful self. As Paul wrote in Romans 3 "This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance God had passed over former sins; it was to prove at the present time that God is righteous and that God justifies the one who has faith in Jesus." Acknowledging the promise and call of God to confess, repent and receive forgiveness, we join in the Apostle John's words:

People: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make God a liar, and His Word is not in us.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Forgive me of my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to you, and the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gave power to become the children of God, and gave His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this O Lord, unto us all.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for your today.

Exodus 14:13

Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become as I am—except for these chains.

Acts 26:29

Let us pray:

People: **Steadfast Deliverer, thank you for rescuing me time and again. Paul had his chains. I confess I have mine. They are fear, resentment, and unrest, to name a few. I need your deliverance today. Whether rescue comes slowly or quickly, help me, like Paul, to stand firm in faith. I will try not to be afraid. Please come. Amen.**

Scripture Lessons *Read*

First Lesson

Genesis 1:1-15

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. ¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

The Psalm

Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵ The

voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!" ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Second Lesson

Acts 19:1-7

¹ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. ² And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³ And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

Reader: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us Good News.

People: **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

Psalm 119:105, John 6:68

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:1-11

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son,^[d] with you I am well pleased."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Song

We Three Kings Of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I, incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.
O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom:
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia! Sounds thru the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night. Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Sermon/Watchword

Talk --- New, Knew, Next

Pr Knoll

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; worship the Lord in holy splendor. *Psalms 29:2*

Offering Song

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb - Do you see what I see
Way up in the sky little lamb - Do you see what I see

continued on next page

A star, a star dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite - With a tail as big as a kite

Said the king to the people everywhere - Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people everywhere - Listen to what I say
The child, the child - Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Prayers of the Church *Pray*

The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church, the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.

Pastor: Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

People: **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude with these words...

Pastor: You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

People: **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**

Benediction *Bless*

Pastor: Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

People:^(Sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

Blessing: Child of God, ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name.

Pastor: Our worship continues,

People: **our service begins!**

Closing Song

Jesus What A Wonderful Child

**Jesus Jesus oh what a wonderful child
Jesus Jesus so lowly meek and mild
New life new hope to all He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King**

**Jesus Jesus oh what a wonderful child
Jesus Jesus so lowly meek and mild
New life new hope to all He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King**

**It was heralded by the angels
Born in a lowly manger
The virgin Mary chosen as His mother
And Joseph was His earthly father
Three wise men came from afar
They were guided by a shining star
To see the baby where He lay
In a manger filled with hay**

**Jesus Jesus oh what a wonderful child
Jesus Jesus so lowly meek and mild
New life new hope to all He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King**

**New life new hope to all He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King
Glory glory glory
To the newborn King**

SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE

Welcome To Worship At Zion. We are pleased to have you join us. *If you are a visitor* please check the shelf outside the office for our newsletter and brochure.

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

The 2024 Altar Flower Chart is up in the hallway. You may sign up for one or two vases. The cost per vase is \$22.50 per vase or \$45.00 for both vases. Please indicate whether it is in honor or memory of an individual or special event.

The Mission of the Month for January is the Mitten Tree. Decorate the tree with hats and mittens (NO scarves, please). Use the Mission of the Month envelopes to support this ministry with cash donations that can be used for other winter apparel items for the schools.

The January Newsletter is available on the tables across from the Chapel and Lounge, on the shelf outside the church office and also on the desk in the library. *Please remember: We no longer have a way to find out if you have moved. Call the church office with new addresses and/or phone numbers.*

Bible Studies/Small Groups

Wednesday **6:00pm** G.I.F.T.

Thursday **6:00pm** Knowing and Experiencing God Bible Study

Worship at Zion

Saturday **5:00pm** Chapel

Sunday **8:00am** Worship

9:30am G.I.F.T. Worship

11:30am Swahili-English Worship

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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