

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
January 29, 2023

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for Everyone . . .

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The Rev. Michael Faust, Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another.*

*Congregation, please **stand/sit** as you are able.*

P Presiding Minister **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister

Welcome to our Visitors

*If you are a visitor, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold visitor's slip.
We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

☞ Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Holy One, source of our renewal ,

☛ **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

☞ Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

☛ **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*
(green hymnal #90)

GREETING

☞ From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☛ **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

📖 This is the word of the Lord. 🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 15

📖/🙏 *by whole verse*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide
upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their
friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor
those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their
health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they
take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things
shall never be ¹overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might,
the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet
this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to
work power and salvation through weakness, rejection,
and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes
true wisdom and power for believers.*

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who
are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power
of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."


²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?
Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made fool-
ish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of
God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God
decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to
save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and
Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For
God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's
weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many
of you were wise by human standards, not many were
powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose
what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose
what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God
chose what is low and despised in the world, things that
are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no
one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source
of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom
from God, and righteousness and sanctification and re-
demption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who
boasts, boast in the Lord."

📖 This is the word of the Lord. 🙏 Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL VERSE



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.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.
- C** Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the
Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON: “SIGNS”

(Silence for a time of reflection)

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*
(green hymnal #383)

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.**

INSTALLATION OF 2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Merciful God...

C receive our prayer.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please share this peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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 TO COMMUNION

P Come and taste the joy of God!

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward to receive the bread, then proceed to the chalice to receive the wine or continue to the second chalice to receive grape juice. Those who do not yet commune may come forward for a blessing.

Please be seated

COMMUNION MEAL

COMMUNION MUSIC

Please stand.

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Shout to the Lord

My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965
Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech
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THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☩ Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

☩ Amen.

BENEDICTION

☩ The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✝ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

☩ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*
(green hymnal #492)

DISMISSAL

☩ Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

☩ Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

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