

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
January 14, 2024 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" arr. By Mark Hayes

WELCOME

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light,
word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. God,
our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not
always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against
you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of
us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that
we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of
grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority
of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG "O Living Breath of God" Red Hymnal #407



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

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")

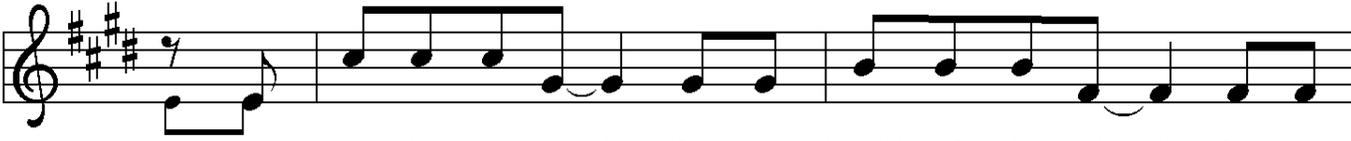
Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



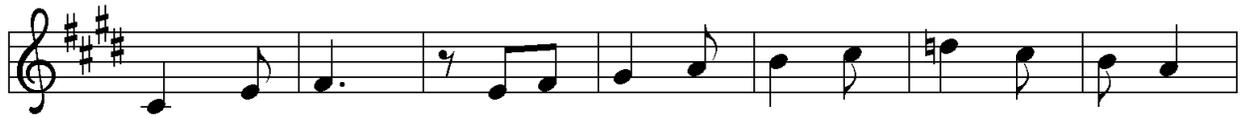
Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE "Now the Feast and Celebration" Red Hymnal #167

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear

to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." ¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him." ¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;**

**all of them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them,
they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 John, the 1st Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."

⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins

SERMON SONG "Will You Come and Follow Me" Red Hymnal #798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

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 ... Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
Into your hands, O Lord, ... **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

MUSIC & OFFERING "Be Thou My Vision" Jeff Campbell

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code.



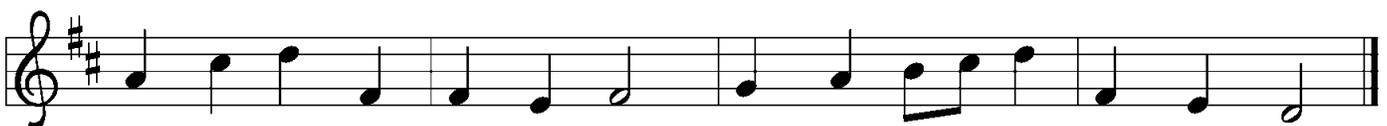
The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request and place on the cross on the table.

Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion. You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.

TABLE BLESSING "Take My Life That I May Be" Red Hymnal #685



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

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.

Please peel open the top part of the communion container for the wafer.

Please peel the other side of the container for the juice.

There are baskets in the middle and the back for disposal of your communion cups.

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.

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.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

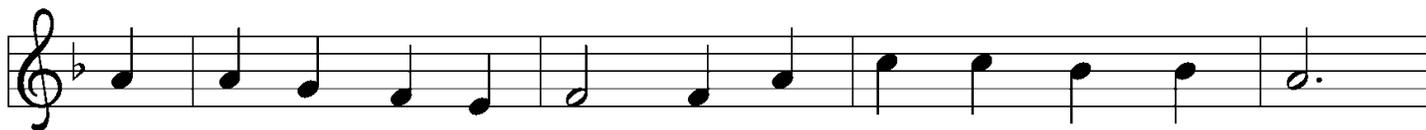
SENDING SONG "How Marvelous God's Greatness" Red Hymnal #830
(words on next page)

SENDING

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

POSTLUDE "We're Marching to Zion" arr. By Mark Hayes

How Marvelous God's Greatness



- 1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!
- 2 Each ti - ny flow'r-et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;
- 3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord
- 4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky



To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night:
the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;
the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;
of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;



in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen - dent birth,
the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;
the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;
when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,



in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.
the snow - capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.
and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.
oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship in Atrium
	11:00am	Celebrating Dreams—Worship Space
Monday		OFFICE CLOSED
	9:30am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
Tuesday	3:30pm	Building and Grounds
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	9:00am	Miss Carly’s Sandwich Making—Kitchen
	11:00am	Finance Committee
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lesson—Youth Center
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

January 21	10:30am	Annual Report Review (in-person only)
January 28	10:30am	Congregational Annual Meeting (in-person & Zoom)

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>







PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern 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
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ 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: Verna Jay, and Bonnie Sundberg.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Wayne Spitzer, and Gene Wessman.



If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern 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.

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

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