

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois  
January 28, 2024 at 9:15am

[www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



PRELUDE

“Be Glorified”

arr. By 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 "Christ, Be Our Light"

Red Hymnal #715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

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")

Red Hymnal #157

Leader  
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

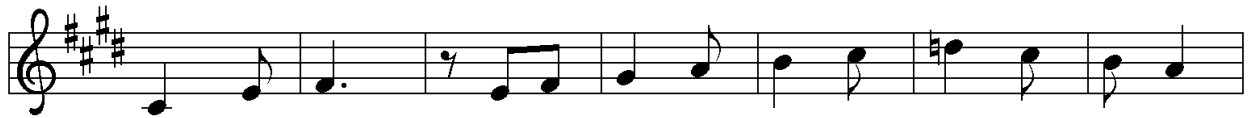
Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

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.**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

### FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 111

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people  
and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are

destroyed. <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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 Mark, the 1st Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.  
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

## 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

“I Speak Jesus”

Jodi Beach

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](http://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 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” Red Hymnal #773

Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; Through the storm, through the  
night, Lead me on to the light:

### *Refrain*

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, Lead me home.

When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, lin-ger near,  
When my life is al-most gone, Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall:

### *Refrain*

When the dark-ness ap-pears And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone, At the ri-ver I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand:

### *Refrain*

## 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

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✝ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG      "Thy Holy Wings"      Red Hymnal #613

- 1 Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.
- 2 Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.
- 3 Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

## SENDING

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

## POSTLUDE

"Thy Holy Wings"

## PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:30am	Congregational Annual Meeting (in-person & Zoom)
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Library
Tuesday	1:30pm	Memorial Team
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
	6:00pm	Sustain Rockford—Fellowship Hall
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lesson—Youth Center
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen & Closet
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

## SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Reader Jane Lightcap  
Musicians Jodi Beach

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

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### 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, Bonnie Sundberg, Kathy Thomas, and Gene Wessman
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Norma Daugherty, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, and Wayne Spitzer, .



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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