

Zion Lutheran Church  
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

February 2, 2025 at 9:15am

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRELUDE

“I Surrender All”



ELCA

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, 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. 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.**

Chorus: Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
 Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
 Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
 Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

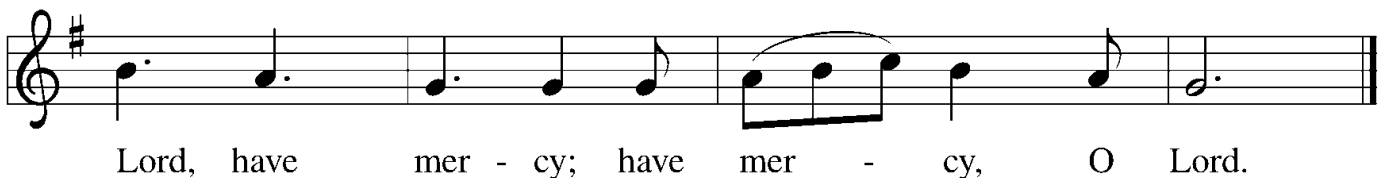
1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
 In the midst of the darkness shining;  
 Jesus, light of the world shine upon us;  
 Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
 Shine on me, shine on me. (Chorus)

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
 So our faces display your likeness;  
 Ever changing from glory to glory,  
 Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
 Shine on me, shine on me. (Chorus)

## 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 #154

SONG OF PRAISE "O Beauty Ever Ancient"

(from ACS #1100)



1 O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,  
2 O beau-ty in cre - a - tion, in world of sound and sight,  
3 O beau-ty that is move - ment in liq - uid line of grace,  
4 O beau-ty of the Spir - it where love is shin - ing through,



di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,  
O beau - ty in the si - lence, in dark-ness as in light,  
O beau - ty that is still - ness in love - ly form or face,  
O beau - ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,



in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

God's word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

PSALM 84

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup> How dear to me is your dwelling,  
O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always be praising you.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are the people whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go through the balsam valley  
will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

<sup>7</sup> They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

<sup>9</sup> Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> **For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;  
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those  
who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup> **O LORD of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

God's word of light.

**Guide us O Lord.**

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 Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of

Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

SERMON Pastor Steve Erickson

SERMON SONG "God of Grace and God of Glory" Red Hymnal #705



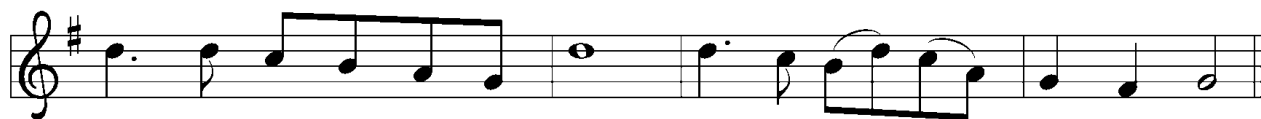
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

## 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 for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

## MUSIC & OFFERING

**"Refiner's Fire"**

by Brian Doerksen

Jodi Beach

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at [www.zionrockford.com](http://www.zionrockford.com) or you can click on the QR code..







Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

## 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.

## 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.**

*Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.*

*The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.*

*There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.*

## COMMUNION SONGS "Let Us Break Bread Together" Red Hymnal #471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

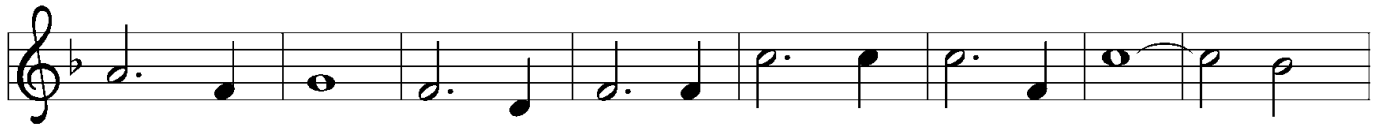


sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

# "Taste and See"

Red Hymnal #493

*Refrain - All*

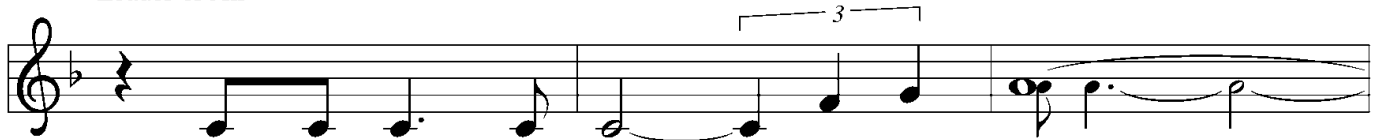


Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

*Leader or All*



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
- 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . . me.
- 3 Wor-ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;  
To - geth - er let us all . . . . praise God's name.  
You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.



my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;  
I called the Lord, . . . who an - swered me;  
Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

*Refrain*



for God has been so good to me.  
from all my trou - bles I was set free.  
in God we need put all our trust.

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.**

## BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG "Go My Children With My Blessing" Red Hymnal #543

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,

here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

## SENDING

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

POSTLUDE "The Light of the World Is Jesus" arr. By Mark Hayes

### WORSHIP LEADER'S

Communion Assistant: Janice Forrest  
Fellowship:  
Media:  
Music: Jodi Beach  
Readers: James Rasch  
Sound: Deangelo Brunson  
Usher: Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

## BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



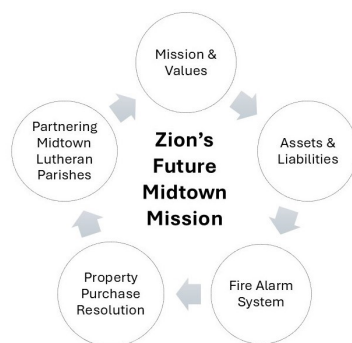
**WORSHIP LEADERS** Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

**WOZ-- Cornucopia Food Pantry & Save the Date:** During February we are requesting donations of **Canned Fruit or Soup** for distribution at the Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. Thank you so much for your help! There is a group of women that send Christmas cards to our area assisted living facilities. This year they sent out 3000 cards to residents! They are asking to collect more cards for next year. If you have any unused cards with envelopes, would you please bring them to church. Just leave them in the Narthex or the church office. Please watch the weekly bulletin and Grapevine for WOZ activities. Thanks so much! The WOZ board

**MONDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY** at Zion, 9:30am in the Nursery. The Books "A is for Alabaster", a devotional that anyone can order.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at Stockholm Inn, 8:00am—feel free to join these groups

**COUNCIL OFFICERS** —The Church Council elected Kris Sommer to a third term. The Constitution states that an officer can only serve two consecutive terms in the same position. If there is no objection, she will serve a third term. If you have any questions, please let a member of Council know. The other officers: Mike Beert as Treasurer, Tom Habing as Vice President and Bonnie Dahlberg as Secretary.



**Zion's Future Midtown Mission:** On January 28, 2025, the Zion Church Council created a Long Range Planning process called: "Zion's Future Midtown Mission to discerns the future of the facilities, the fire alarm system, continuing resolution on property purchase, the assets and liabilities of the properties and partnering with the Midtown Lutheran Parish churches." After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. This was in response to the Annual Meeting action items. At the February Council Meeting: discuss the timeline, process and team members. If you would like to serve on this task force, please let Pastor or Kris Sommer know of your interest.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can volunteer  
as little as 2 hours a month  
Pantry is Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
and the Third Saturday of each month from 9am to 11am.  
Contact Peggy King at Cornucopia, 815.962.1380.

**Cornucopia**



**Food Pantry**

### PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor 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 (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, David Bates, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Jolyn Hess, Bennie & Mairetha Jackson, Megan Libey, Deb Tolodxi, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jeannie Thomas, Brian Veitch, Mary Wedel, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

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

### PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
	4:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Council Member Installation at Worship

### UPCOMING

February 11	8:30am	RVC English as a second language resumes
February 12	8:00am	Grapevine Articles Due
	11:00am	Mission Team—Multipurpose Room
February 16	10:30am	Forum: Alzheimer Association—Fellowship Hall
February 18	3:00pm	Zion Outreach Board — Multipurpose Room
February 23	10:30am	Forum: Reconciled in Christ Synod and Congregation led by Pastor Thomas
March 2	10:30am	Forum: Funeral Preparation with Olson Funeral Home
March 9	10:30am	Forum: Burmese Ministry with Pastor Uk
March 16	10:30am	Forum: Baha'i Faith with Dick and Ann Rundall

### OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



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

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>