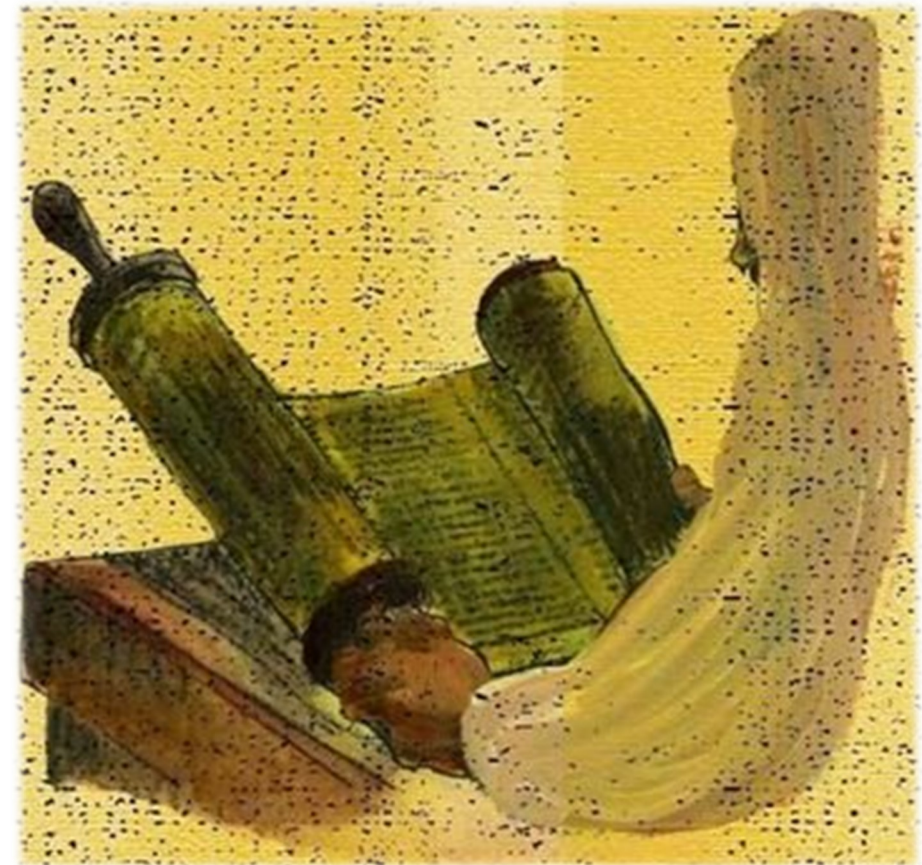


Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 26, 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

435 Main Street, Akron PA 17501 717. 859. 2100

Check our website: www.zionakron.org and
Facebook page.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome, guests and friends, to worship this morning. We gather to give thanks to God our creator and savior. All who hunger are invited to the feast at Zion. Here, we encounter God in the risen Jesus---through the Word, the water, the bread and cup, the prayers, and the assembly of believers. God graces us with the forgiveness of sins and hope in a new creation.

Baptism is an act of the Spirit that claims us and fills us with the power to proclaim the gospel in word and deed! Baptism is an ending and a new beginning. It is the end of life under the threat of darkness and the power of death. It is the beginning of a spiritual journey toward God's will for our lives and the life of all creation. Baptism involves prayer and risk. What might we be called to risk as the baptized people of God?

PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☐ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.
Merciful God,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sunday Learning Group

"We Make The Road By Walking"

1st and 3rd Sundays

11:15 AM

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 2nd at Brian & Jennifer Frey's Home

623 Buchanan Drive, Ephrata

We are studying Brian McLaren's, "We Make The Road By Walking". McLaren says of his book that "Christian faith is still 'in the making'. It continues to grow, evolve, learn, change, emerge, and mature ... in and through us. I want to introduce people to a vision of the Christian faith and the biblical narrative not as a box, set in stone, and not as a parking lot (where we await the ferry to heaven), but as a road ... that is extended into the future by all of us, walking forward in the Spirit together."

Come join us as together we walk wisely and joyfully into the future of our faith, learning, growing and changing, journeying together to make the road!

On February 2, we will be covering Chapter 7 "It's Not Too Late".

Please bring your Bible. The Scripture readings we will be studying are:

Genesis 18:9-33 and 22:1-14

Micah 6:6-8

Acts 17:19-34

Please bring your book. If you need a book or have questions, contact Missy Hoffman at mkh060455@gmail.com.

COMING UP NEXT

Every Wednesday, 8:15-9:30 am: **Morning Meditation.** At Zion Lutheran Church.

Today, 10:30am: **RIC Discussion.**

Today, 11:15am: **Rail Trail Church.** Meet at Zach and Liz Rowe's house. 3 Paddock Drive, Lititz, PA 17543

February 2, 11:15am: **Sunday Learning Group.** See more in Announcements.

February 4, 11:30am: **Gather On the Hill: Senior Event.** Meet at Bergstrasse Church. Please call Ephrata Area Social Services to RSVP by the Friday before each event. More details in the weekly newsletter.

February 9, 10:30am: **Annual Congregational Meeting.**

February 9, 11:15am: **Rail Trail Church.** Meet at Zach and Liz Rowe's house. 3 Paddock Drive, Lititz, PA 17543

February 10: **Congregation Council meets with Bergstrasse Council.**

February 13, 7pm: **Congregational Council Meeting.**

February 15, 8am: **Peter's Porch.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vespers

Wednesday Vespers are paused right now. We will resume for Lent.

Dinner Church

There is no Dinner Church in February. We will resume meeting in March.

GATHERING HYMN "Dearest Jesus, at Your Words" (ELW 520) verses 1, 3



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diancy of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: LIEBSEER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

EPIPHANY SEASON LITANY

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

C The God of glory thunders, the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

P The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

C The voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

P The Lord sits enthroned above the flood;

C The Lord sits enthroned as King forevermore.

P The Lord shall give strength to his people;

C The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This Little Light of Mine” (ELW 677)



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the Good News.
C Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Ron Ayers, Suzanne Baumgardner, Doris Bernadicci, Bonnie Bleacher, Stephanie Cambell, Logan Dohner, Arthur Drescher, Tracy Fox and family, Tim Hertzog, Lois Hicks, Len and Janet Hoffman, Waltraut Karklins, Karen Laudenslager, Jacob Longenecker, Linda Losito, Susan Mindermann, Gisela Pilarte, Nancy Reber, Marie Rosati, friends and family of Shirley Royer, Judy Schaffer, Dale Shepherd, Jerry Solomon, Martha Weidman and Family, Jim and Sandy Young.

WORD

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

1 All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. 6 Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 8 So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;
give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.
The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,
the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.
Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;
a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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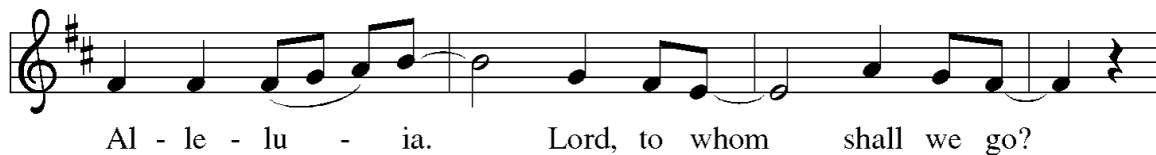
14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31a But strive for the greater gifts.

R Word of God, word of life.
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW 171)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray:

**C We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG "Let Streams of Living Justice" (ELW 710)

SONG DURING COMMUNION “One Bread, One Body” (ELW 496)

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of

bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, st, b. 1939
 Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, st
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GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Near the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
 and recovery of sight to the blind,
 to let the oppressed go free,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Missy Hoffman, Minister of Pastoral Care

HYMN OF THE DAY "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (ELW 843)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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COMMUNION

We practice the ancient rite of the Lord's Supper every week. All people who hunger for God's grace and peace in their lives are welcome to receive the bread and cup. Please come forward in the center aisle, take an empty cup, kneel at the altar, and return by the side aisle. In this meal, you are joined with Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you receive God's strength for daily life. We are sent from the table to serve others in his name. We offer gluten free bread and grape juice, as an alternative to the bread and wine, for those who require or prefer it. All are fed at the table of grace!

LAMB OF GOD (ELW 174)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The pastor gives thanks to God for the gifts of creation, for the cross of Christ and the means of salvation, for the bread and cup that become His body and blood, and for the Holy Spirit, sent to dwell in our hearts and minds by faith. 'Eucharist' literally means 'thanksgiving' and so we come to the table with thankful hearts lifted up to God, the giver of life.

We hear the instructions of St. Paul to the Corinthian church on celebrating the Lord's Supper; and we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples: "Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body, this is my blood, given and shed for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Trust that Christ is present for you in this meal.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW 112)

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 Christ our light has become our bread!
C Let us receive him with joy!

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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Join the circle! We pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need of God's compassionate mercy saying: light of the world, **hear our prayer.***

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with one another; a hug. Handshake, and the words "peace be with you".

MEAL

OFFERING

We receive an offering for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gifts support weekly worship, pastoral ministry, and local and global outreach efforts. You may also give online at www.zionakron.org. Click on: ONLINE GIVING. Thank you.

OFFERING SONG "We All Are One in Mission" (ELW 576)



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune
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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray:
C Blessed are you, O God,
Sovereign of the universe.
You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey.
Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food,
and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world,
in the name of Christ our light. 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.
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

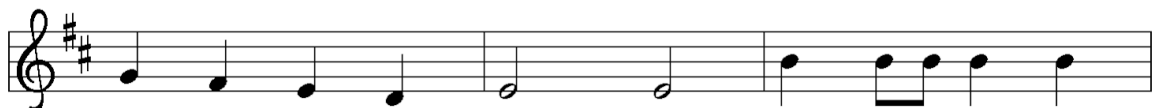
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW 173)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.