

Zion & Silver Creek Lutheran Churches

Epiphany 4~ January 31, 2021



Call to Worship—Senior Choir (Zion)

Welcome

Invocation

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

ELW #561

Prayer of the Day

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.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *The prophet speaks with God’s authority*

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This 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.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet

shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But 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: Psalm 111

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

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

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 *Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols*

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, 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.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet 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.

⁷It 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. ⁸“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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, 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.*

Children's Sermon (Zion)

Madison Crane

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The healing of one with an unclean spirit

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They 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." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon Pastor Ale Tulu

Hymn of the Day

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

ELW #763

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Silver Creek)

Apostle's 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 into hell. 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 Intercession *response: Have mercy, O God.*

Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

"We All Are One in Mission"

ELW #576

Benediction

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Musician: Laura Rude

Worship assistant: Millie Reiersen

Reader: Glenice Johnson

Acolyte: Caitlynn Ellison Brianne Ellison

Tech assist:

OUR SYMPATHY TO Ron & Ruth Ostby on the death of their son, Rick.

OUR PRAYERS TO Bonnie Yost who is hospitalized at Sanford TRF.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored by Barbara Overbye in memory of Arlen Overbye.

ZION'S WEBSITE Sponsor for January is Zion memorials

REMINDER to those hospitalized to please notify Zion as the hospital does not inform us.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 8:30AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

STEWARDSHIP (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

Jan 18-24 income: \$2,417.

Year to Date income Jan 1– Jan 24: \$17,101.

ANNUAL REPORTS may be picked up at Zion.

ZION ANNUAL MEETING will be held January 31st following worship.

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated February 7 & 21. Home communion may be picked up at Zion during office hours.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS may sign-up to Acolyte, Read, or Tech Crew for Sunday & Lent worship. Sign-up sheets on Madison's office door

NEW MEMBERS Silver Creek welcomes the following new members today:

- ◆ Brian & Katie Shaw and children Audrey and Owen.
- ◆ Jordan & McKenzie Nelson
- ◆ Dustin Carlson

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Sunday, Jan 31: 8:30 Zion worship/ Broadcasts Cable 3, KTRF radio;

9:30 Online Sunday School posted

10:00 Silver Creek Worship– New members

Monday, Feb 1: Parish Nurse available by appointment

Tuesday, Feb 2: 9:30 Staff meeting; Pastors Text study, Board Meetings

Wednesday, Feb 3: 9:30 TRF Ministerial meeting

6pm Confirmation Classes via Zoom

7 Senior Choir

Sunday, Feb 7: 8:30 Zion Holy Communion worship/ Broadcasts Cable 3, KTRF radio;

9:30 Online Sunday School posted

10:00 Silver Creek Worship

7 PM—4-H

We All Are One in Mission

- 1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.
- 2 We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.
- 3 Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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My Life Flows On in Endless Song

- 1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? Refrain
- 3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my
heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? Refrain

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899 Public Domain

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Could He Be the Only One?

Who: Jesus, disciples, observant go-to-worship folks honoring the sabbath. And, yes, a man with an unclean spirit. (Could he be the only such soul in the congregation?)

What: Reading holy words, the domain of scribes and scholars, and a shocking teaching given “with authority.”

Where: In the synagogue.

When: On the sabbath.

Who is this one who cried out in the congregation? Was he a scared thief creeping from his hiding place? A lanky kid exhausted from bawling outside locked doors? An old man gasping beneath piles of ill-gotten wealth? A young woman cursing heaven by day and hell by night for reasons no one dares to name? A stumbling fugitive worn down by a lifetime of running? A robust profiteer, master of deception? An unjust judge solemnly wearing a robe woven from threads of secret favors? A miser in a mansion perched above slums? A hoarder of vengeance nursing metastasized hatreds? Have you seen, met, or known any of these among the congregation?

The one with an unclean spirit cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?” (Mark 1:24). Jesus silences the unclean spirit. But Jesus will not be the destroyer. The crucified one does not crucify. He does not build and fill prisons; he sets free. He does not shun, avoid, and send away; he calls the accursed to himself. He does not condemn the sinner; he rescues and saves.

Yes, they in the synagogue that day and we in the church this day are amazed. Jesus’ teaching with authority contradicts all the rules that anchor us to a spirit of despair. Good news, indeed.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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