

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church's Online or At Home Worship!

To attend our weekly Sunday service via Zoom, please use the following link each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09> , Meeting ID: 843 5484 0714, Password: 022654. Or by PHONE, +16465588656, 84354840714#, 1#, 022654#.

Our service is also available for viewing on Zion's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWzOtbCe2z7bIPvxp62lA>

Announcements:

Please stay on Zoom following this Sunday's worship service. Pastor Rick will be greeting our online participants during the 'joyful chaos'!!

Just a friendly reminder that last week, January 30th, we sent out our final Leadership Letter. We will continue to send out the bulletin to our online (Zoom & YouTube) participants, as well as our participants worshipping from home. Please let Sara know if you have returned to in-person services and would, therefore, like to be removed from our weekly snail mail list or if you only need to receive the monthly newsletter.

Monthly Newsletters will continue to be sent in combination with that week's service.

Annual Meeting & Report: 2021 Annual Reports are available on the table in the narthex. Hard copies were mailed to our snail mail recipients and emailed to those on our email distribution list. This year's Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom only on Feb. 20th following the worship service (also held via Zoom only!) Please stay on the Zoom call to attend the meeting.

Worship & Music Meeting: This Sunday at 11:30am in the Fireside Room.



Zion Lutheran Church
5 Epiphany



February 6, 2022

WELCOME TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH'S AT HOME OR ONLINE SERVICE!

PRELUDE: *Holy Spirit, Now Outpoured*, by John W. Peterson -Kelli Watson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God, **We confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #413* -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful; and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Vs. 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Isaiah 6:1-8* Bible Pg. 1068

Psalm 138 ELW #138 (read responsively)

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast ¹ love and
faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word a- bove all things.

³When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your pur- ¹ pose for me;

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ¹ of your hands.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:1-11* Bible Pg. 1789

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-
- le - lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le -
lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah. Hal-le - lu - jah.

Gospel: *Luke 5:1-11 Bible Pg. 1597*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.** The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: *-Pastor Rick Klafehn*

Today all three readings share a common theme: God's call and our human response.

Isaiah is in: the breathtaking beauty of the Jerusalem temple, the presence of God's awesome holy majesty, the home of God that cannot begin to contain God, only the hem of God's robe. Isaiah is overcome: not by God's glory and might, but by his own flaws and fragility, his own deep unworthiness. "Woe is me! I am lost. I am a sinful person, from a sinful people, a sinful family, in a sinful country."

The risen Christ calls Paul into his mission, but Paul proclaims himself "least of the apostles", unfit even to be one, for Paul had been tracking, arresting, and putting into prison Christ's followers. He was present at the execution of Stephen.

At the very beginning of his ministry Jesus uses a fishing boat for a pulpit, and then tells professional, but exhausted, unsuccessful fisherman to go back out and to cast their nets just one more time. They had caught nothing all night. Suddenly so many fish are flipping and flopping in the nets. The nets begin to break. Their boats begin to sink. Peter says, "Go away," not because this carpenter's son is embarrassing them. "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinner."

The honest human response to God's call is always the same - and for you and me, too: a sense of deep discomfort and sinful unworthiness. We are not good enough. We are unworthy. We don't have the education or experience, the ability or skills. We don't have the imagination or energy or courage or vision. We make stupid and foolish mistakes. We say and do hurtful things. We are no one special. And if we don't question and doubt ourselves, there always seems to be someone to do so. And we may be tired or worn out or discouraged. The waters may seem empty, the culture and society unsupportive, the future unpromising or bleak, the work itself pointless.

However, our word is never the last word. Our word is never the end of the experience. God who made you and loves you will not cut you off. God's response to our own honest confession is always the same. I love you. I forgive you. I have a place and purpose for you. I choose you and send you. Do not be afraid. I will strengthen and gift and guide you and all whom I call. Go back to the waters you think are empty. Be my faithful presence. Offer my mercy and justice and hope. Change people's lives with my promise of new life and resurrection through Jesus.

We can choose to listen to our excuses. We can choose to let our doubt, our sense of unworthiness, our own failures and disappointments, have power over us, bind us, and imprison us. Or we can hear and believe God's call. We can remember what God said when we were baptized and called by God. "You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased." We can believe God's promise of mercy and forgiveness. We can believe God's call in our baptism that God sends you and me to be God's agents for reconciliation and peace, God's representatives to work justice and mercy, renewal and healing and love. With a trusting, obedient heart, we can follow God's lead, not because we are so good or holy, but because God is, because God is faithful and calls us and sends us.

Sometimes God calls in a sacred space, a religious service: Isaiah. Sometimes God calls in extraordinary, unexpected, and miraculous events: Paul. Sometimes God calls in the middle of our ordinary lives, at school, at home, even in our everyday workplace: Simon Peter. Sometimes God can even call through Disney movies. And if you and I are paying attention, perhaps we can identify and share those moments with our children and grandchildren, too.

You see, the Disney movie, Moana, is a call story. Moana grows up on a beautiful, bountiful, paradise island in the south Pacific, her father the chief of her people, and she will become someday their leader, too. The problem is this: the people and their leaders have become too comfortable on the island, satisfied with staying safe, unwilling to take risks, fearful, even forbidden, to voyage out into the ocean, to venture forth beyond the island's barrier reefs. Their vision is simply to preserve the people's islands and their traditions.

Then when evil besets the island, disaster threatens. Coconuts become diseased. Food supplies fail. Fish in nearby waters disappear. The people, the village, life itself, are endangered. Moana suggests going beyond the reef for fish, her parents forbid it, but she disobeys, and soon discovers how risky and dangerous, even deadly, the ocean can be.

Moana had always been attracted to the ocean. For one day as a toddler, the waters of the ocean washed her, chose her, called and gifted her, to restore her people and the ocean beyond, just as many of us were claimed and called by God in the baptismal water when we were young, even infants, too. Moana doesn't understand at first, and neither do we, but her passion for the ocean cannot be shaken.

So when disaster threatens, Moana's grandmother takes Moana aside and tells of their people's hidden history. Once upon a time long ago they had been courageous voyageurs and brave sailors. They took risks. They ventured into the ocean beyond the island. It was their purpose. It gave them life. In the same way we, too, tell our ancient Scripture stories, and our church and congregation's stories, too, so we remember how God called and led God's people in the past, our identity and mission purpose still.

To save her people and her island, and despite her limited experience Moana sails out into the ocean, where she meets new challenges and those who can befriend and assist her. In moments of danger, doubt, and defeat, she remembers her call from the ocean waters and her identity. Of course, it is Disney. Moana fulfills her mission and saves her island and her people, who become willing to voyage forth beyond their island home again.

Even before the pandemic I have wondered if we as God's people had become too content and comfortable in our island congregations, in the safe community life with those we knew, welcoming those who washed ashore into our facilities, but unwilling, even afraid to venture out into the neighborhood, community and wider world, to meet new people, to partner with them, pursue their hopes, confront their fears, take on injustices and new challenges, risk disagreements and loss for the sake of a greater good, for the sake of sharing God's blessing and love with others beyond our own.

I wonder if the pandemic has only heightened our desire to stay safe, our unwillingness to take risks, our reluctance to venture forth into the world, our denial of our baptismal identity and mission as God's beloved children and disciples of Jesus.

Our world has changed so much just in our lifetime. It no longer sustains life as we knew it. New threats, as well as new ministry opportunities call for new honesty about our weaknesses, and new strengths to be discovered and then developed.

Can the movie Moana be God's call for us as God's called and chosen, baptized and beloved ones, to fear not and to venture forth again from our island congregations, to rebuild our mission-faring vessels, to claim God's mission as our own?

In Matthew 28 the risen Jesus gives us our mission and a promise, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Amen.

ANTHEM: Be Thou My Vision, Traditional Irish Hymn, arr. by Marcia Wells -Kelli Watson

APOSTLES' CREED, (Please stand, if able.)

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 Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Equip your church to proclaim the good news that we have first received: the forgiveness and grace shown to us through Jesus Christ. Send us out as apostles, sharing the hope of your salvation with a waiting world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Softening the hearts of rulers and governments that they perceive and tend to the needs of their people. Remove corruption and the impulse toward violence. Protect first responders and military personnel who risk their lives in service of others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon those who look to you for hope and healing. Bless doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, and all caregivers. Draw near to those who are scared, sick, or in pain. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially those who suffer with chronic pain and all cancer patients, Pr. Mary Etta, Sara, and Theresa, that the light of Christ may shine upon them with hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy..... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

The 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION,

Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. Amen.

Sending Song: *Here I Am, Lord, vs. 1 & 3 Hymn#574 -Kelli Watson*

Vs. 1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?" Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Vs. 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Bless the Lord, by John W. Peterson -Kelli Watson*

*The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God
in memory of our mother, Aldine Kopanski,
by Debbie Murdock, Mara Hans, and Dan Kopanski.*

Thank you for being with us today.