

# 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/UCWzOtfCe2z7bIPvxp62lA>

## Announcements:

**Please Note:** There will not be an in-person service next Sunday, February 20th. This service will be on Zoom only due to the Annual Meeting.

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Please stay on the Zoom call following next Sunday's worship service (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>) to join the Annual Meeting. If you do not use Zoom and would still like to "attend", you can phone in to Zoom's 800 number using any phone. Please let Sara or Katie Marscher know if you need help with that and we would be glad to walk you through it.

**2021 Annual Reports:** Are available on the table in the narthex and have been sent out to the congregation via email as well as snail mail.

**Snail Mail:** Please let Sara know if you have returned to regular worship services in-person and no longer need to receive your bulletin via snail mail. The information is identical.

**Newsletters:** Monthly newsletters will continue to go out in combination with the worship service bulletin for that week. Please let Sara know if you have any questions.

**Pastor Rick:** If you have not been attending in-person worship services or attending on Zoom and have not been able to speak with or meet with Pastor Rick yet and would like to, please call Sara and she will gladly schedule a time for you to receive a phone call from him.

**Women of Faith Upcoming Event:** Please join us via Zoom on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm for the first of three Bible studies from the Women of the ELCA program, *Let Us Pray*. Patsy Glista will be our facilitator. The Bible Study materials can be accessed virtually by signing up for the Gather e-newsletter at <https://www.gathermagazine.org/summer-2018-prayer/>. A few paper copies are available on the table in the narthex for those who can't access the study online. Questions contact Patsy.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82563946369?pwd=QVdhekRQQ3hPUldHaVNWV2hSVDA5Zz09>

**Topic:** Women of Faith Bible Study at 7pm

**Time:** Feb 22, 2022 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Meeting ID:** 825 6394 6369, Passcode: 574551

**One tap mobile:** +16465588656,,82563946369#,,,,\*574551# US (New York)

*Watch for more information in the March newsletter.*

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY:** THIS SATURDAY, FEB. 12<sup>TH</sup>, WE'LL BE AT ZION FROM 10AM UNTIL NOON. JUST DRIVE OVER WITH YOU SOUP AND POP YOUR TRUNK! THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!!

Zion Lutheran Church  
6 Epiphany



February 13, 2022

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

PRELUDE: *I Need Thee Every Hour*, by Robert Lowry -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: *Jesus, the Very Thought of You*, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn #754 -Kelli Watson

Vs. 1 Jesus, the very thought of you fills us with sweet delight; but sweeter far your face to view and rest within your light.

Vs. 4 O Jesus, be our joy today; help us to prize your love; grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home above."

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

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: *Jeremiah 17:5-10* Bible Pg. 1201

*Psalm 1 ELW #1 (read responsively)*

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 **Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4 **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 **For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15:12-20* 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. Hal-le-lu-jah.

**Gospel:** *Luke 17:2-6 Bible Pg. 1626*

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

**Sermon:** *-David Grindle, SAM*

*Please enjoy Pastor Rick's first sermon with Zion from January 23<sup>rd</sup>! (This was not previously sent out.) This week's sermon was not yet available upon sending out this week's mailing.*

Sara still plays Christmas music in the church office. Dianne and I still play Christmas music at home. Remember the Christmas movie "Elf" – Buddy a Christ figure – his introduction to his dad?

"I'm... I'm here with Zion Lutheran. And we never met. And they want me to preach a sermon. And, um, I was retired. But the Holy Spirit called me. So I'm here now, your interim pastor. I found you. And guess what? God loves you. God loves you. God loves you!"

Wow, that was weird. It is kind of weird that the Gospel reading for my first sermon with you tells of Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth, fitting ... and unsettling ... how his warm welcome so quickly plummeted, how enthusiastic following so quickly turned against him – but that's next week ... It wasn't a long sermon Jesus preached, shorter than the Scripture on which it was based, but it was enough, his inaugural address, the Scripture his mission statement. Something new was beginning, God's Spirit was present, God's reign had come in Jesus: good news from God, God's saving love, God's help and healing to all in need, freedom for all oppressed.

The first reading tells of another new beginning. God's people have returned from exile in Babylon. The return is an answer to their prayer, but the reality is hard. The temple is destroyed. The city of Jerusalem is in ruins. The city walls are crumbled and worthless for protection. The people are bitterly divided over how to build back better and move forward. Distrust is deep between those who were left behind, not taken prisoner, the more impoverished, powerless, working class, and those who had been removed and just returned home to reclaim land, possessions, and positions, the more powerful, intellectual, and wealthy.

The experience for God's people of rebuilding their temple and city is not so different from our experience today of rebuilding from the pandemic: our lives, our economy, our health and education systems, our social fabric and communities, and our churches. We have suffered painful hurts and losses. We have endured disappointments, setbacks, difficulties, differences, even deep divisions. Challenges we faced before the pandemic were only exacerbated. But God's people under Nehemiah the governor had made much progress. The hard work of rebuilding both city infrastructure and community life is not yet finished, but it is time to recognize and to celebrate all that has been done thus far. The people gather in the public square. Ezra, the priest, opens the Hebrew Scriptures to read God's Word, God's Law. The people stand, like we stand for the reading of the Gospel. Ezra blesses God. The people raise their arms and hands to God in heaven. They say "Amen. Amen," and humbly bow their faces towards the ground. Ezra and his worship assistants preach and explain what is read. God's Word comes alive. The people understand. It was a memorable, holy moment – like when Jesus first read Scripture and preached in his hometown. The people weep when they hear God's word. We don't know why. Perhaps they are feel convicted and sorry for their sins and failings as individuals or a people. Perhaps they are

overcome by emotion from being together and hearing God's word again after a very long time. Perhaps a sense of loss is becoming real, that what the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel once were, is no more, there is no going back, no making them great again. Maybe the hard work yet ahead is hitting home. Maybe weariness, discouragement, or despair is setting in.

I don't know where you are, individually, as a family, or corporately here at Zion, on this path of rebuilding from pandemic, a pandemic that made harder the process of discerning a mission and a vision, and then a new pastor to support that mission. Surely no one expected or wanted the search process to go on over two years. Maybe something in you aligns with whatever made God's people weep that day so long ago.

But the governor Nehemiah would not let tears and grief have the last word. He commanded the people to celebrate with great joy all that has been accomplished, to eat and to drink, and to share with others, so no one is left out, everyone is included and can celebrate God's blessings and goodness, too. Nehemiah proclaimed, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep. The joy of the Lord is your strength."

And today, that's what I proclaim to you, too. "This day is holy. The joy of the Lord is your strength." Today God is with you. Today God is with us. Today we recognize the good work you have done at Zion so far in your call process; the love and faithful work of Pastor Anita Mohr and all the supply worship leaders; your adapting to the changing conditions of covid; your adoption and use of new technology. Today by the call of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God we gather together around God's Word made real in Jesus, God's Word proclaimed in Scripture, God's Word of blessing and forgiveness in bread and cup. Today we encourage one another as we celebrate with joy our Lord Jesus, who died on a cross and who rose again with life and love, forgiveness and mercy for you and for all. For not me, not any pastor or bishop, not you, not even we ourselves together, but rather God is our strength, Christ Jesus our hope and our Savior. We are strong through our joy and faith in Jesus, because Christ Jesus is strong, even when we are not, and his same Spirit calls us, leads us, and lives in us. When I retired last March, I certainly didn't look or expect God's Spirit to bring us together and lead me here. As individual persons, as pastors, as a congregation together, we never know where or with whom God's Spirit may lead us in God's mission. Pray to be open to God's Word and the Holy Spirit's leading, especially in this time of transition. For that is when Scripture is fulfilled: in your hearing and believing, and then your living and your sharing so no one is left out or excluded, so that everyone knows God's love in Jesus, and lives in hope and joy in Jesus, too. Amen

*ANTHEM: Morning Has Broken, arr. by Lloyd Larson -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.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. 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, Bert, 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

### 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:** *How Great Thou Art, vs. 1 & 4 Hymn#856 -Kelli Watson*

**Vs. 1** O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

**Vs. 4** When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

##### Dismissal

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

**Postlude:** *We've a Story to Tell to the Nations, by. H. Ernest Nichol -Kelli Watson*

*Thank you for being with us today.*

**Bookkeeping:** We want to thank Patti Cappelli, Zion's bookkeeper, for her dedicated work to Zion! Patti has been a loyal and hardworking member of staff over the last eight years, and we will miss having her in this position. Patti will be retiring from Zion this coming week. If you would like to send her a card, you can send it to Zion, and we will make sure that she gets it.

