



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

February 4, 2024 ✚ FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

✚ GATHERING ✚

Prelude

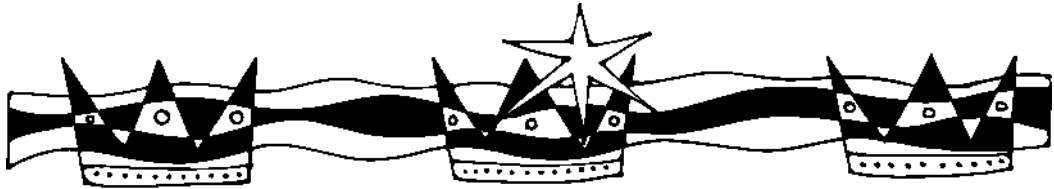
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

Confession & Forgiveness

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

When we claim to be without sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we celebrate the power of him who meets us in our weakness,
whose Gospel is thus proclaimed freely, to all, in their needs.

(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We despair in our weakness, doubt in our darkness,
and shirk from our obligation to share your blessings.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and let your light shine upon us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God sees you in your weakness and hears you when you cry.

He has sent his Son to die for your forgiveness
and to live for your encouragement.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gathering Song

Gather Us In

#532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth. here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing.



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 & Music

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Opening Litany

O Jesus Christ, we, and many whom we know,
are dealing with sickness and illnesses,
physical disabilities and chronic pains.

We are in search of a Healer.

We are battling temptations of every kind,
and are so often being overpowered by the presence of sin in the world.

We are in search of a Savior.

We are often unable to understand what is happening around us,
and we desire to learn more about ourselves and about our God.

We are in search of a Teacher.

We are often threatened by danger and uncertainty,
fearful of calamities and accidents,
concerned about possible mishaps and missteps.

We are in search of a Protector.

We often worry about money and finances,
wonder about what we will eat and drink,
and question whether or not we will have everything we need
to live from day to day.

We are in search of a Provider.

We are often confused about which direction to take in our lives.

We are in search of a Guide.

Now may we who have searched for someone to heal us, save us,
teach us, protect us, provide for us, and guide us,
find what we are searching for in you, O Lord.

Apostolic Greeting

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the wisdom of God the Father,
and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Hymn of Praise

ELW setting 10



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

Everlasting God,

you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.

Make us agents of your healing and wholeness,

that your good news may be known to the ends of your creation,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength, mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Let us read Psalm 147 responsively.

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love.

²⁰**Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!

¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

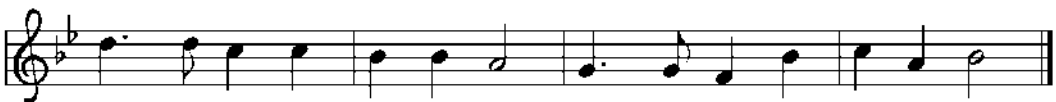
ELW setting 10



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

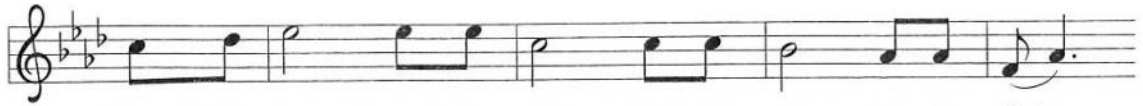
#773



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, - pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

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Apostle's Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 People

P As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray
for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church.
Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer,
that we discern your way for us in the world.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P Creator of the ends of the earth,
you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil.
Bring your creation into harmony and balance.
Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people.
Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever.
Bring the leaders, elected officials,
and peacekeepers of our towns and countries
into understanding and unity.
Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering.
Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak
and all in need, *especially...*
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A God who gives power to the faint,
challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives
Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people,
especially those whose perspectives challenge our own.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence...
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died.
Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care,

and give us hope in your promised salvation.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us,
we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

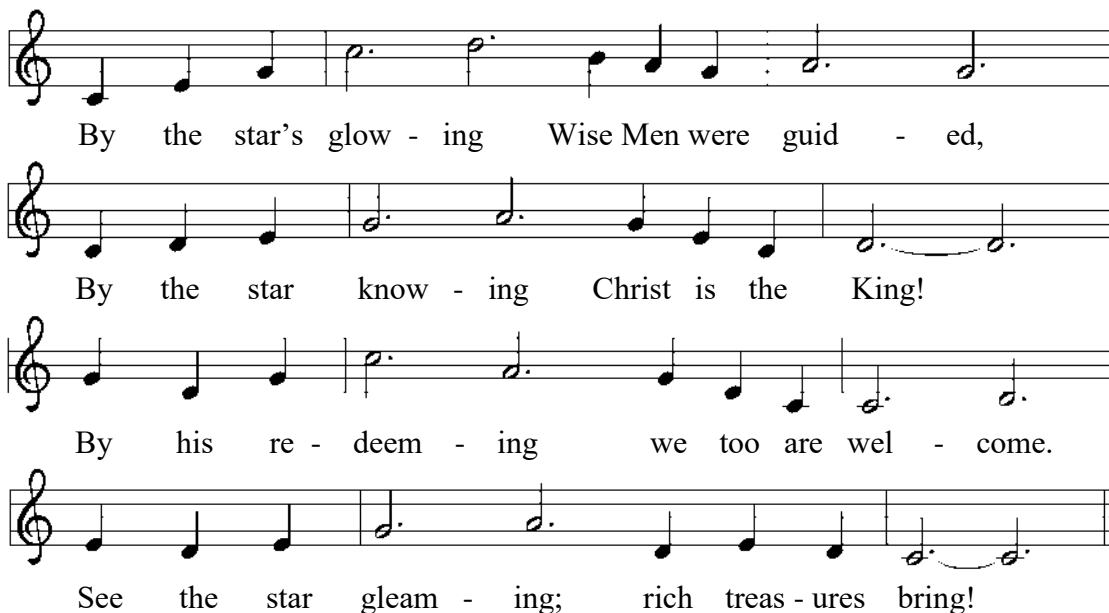
Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

(Tune: #556)



By the star's glow - ing Wise Men were guid - ed,
By the star know - ing Christ is the King!
By his re - deem - ing we too are wel - come.
See the star gleam - ing; rich treas - ures bring!

Tune: Public Domain

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Proper Preface

Ever-lifting God, we have known and we have heard
that you are the creator of the ends of the earth
and your understanding is unsearchable.

You give power to the faint and strength to the powerless;
When your people grew weary
you lifted them up in Christ with wings like eagles,
and when your church falls exhausted
you send your Holy Spirit so that we may walk and run
in your strength and not our own.

By the depth of your mercy, you turned the agony of your Son's cross
into the grace of his resurrection.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

ELW setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Everlasting God, in Jesus you enter our house,
take us by the hand, lift us up, and give us life again.
Enter among us now, in the power of your Holy Spirit,
that your people may be sanctified,
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Drink this, all of you, this my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Ever-loving God, everyone is searching for you.
We seek for you in solitude, and we long for you in company;
we hope for you in distress, and we ache for you in the darkness.
Meet us in our suffering and in our trials;
cast out the demons that beset our public life
and dog our personal struggles;
heal us when we are stricken and hopeless;
and raise us up when we are faint and weary.
Hasten the day when every enemy becomes a friend in you,
every hunger is filled in you, and every tear is comforted by you,
and you are all in all, ever one God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together 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.

Agnus Dei

ELW setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.



Distribution Hymn

On Eagles' Wings

#787



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea- gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain

All

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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Distribution Hymn

When Memory Fades

#792

1 When mem - 'ry fades, and rec - og - ni - tion fal - ters,
 2 As frail - ness grows, and youth - ful strengths di - min - ish,
 3 With - in your Spir - it, good - ness lives un - fad - ing.

when eyes we love grow dim, and minds con - fused,
 in wea - ry arms which worked their ear - nest fill,
 The past and fu - ture min - gle in - to one.

speak to our souls of love that nev - er al - ters;
 your ag - ing ser - vants la - bor now to fin - ish
 All joys re - main, un - shad - owed light per - vad - ing.



speak to our hearts, by pain and fear a - bused.
their earth - ly tasks, as fits your mer - cy's will.
No val - ued deed will ev - er be un - done.



O God of life and heal - ing peace, em - pow'r us
We grieve their wan - ing, yet re - joice, be - liev - ing,
Your mind en - folds all fi - nite acts and off - rings.



with pa - tient cour - age, by your grace in - fused.
your arms, un - wea - ried, shall up - hold us still.
Held in your heart, our death - less life is won.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
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Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

**Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all
and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements



Benediction

God who names you, Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#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
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Jesus Ministers in Galilee

So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. Mark 1:39

Based on Mark 1:29-39



V S H Z X U C N P N O D N J S
 I I Z J C R R T Q E M K K J I
 L M V J E H D B E D O C G F C
 L O I O X P N E Q B S P I C V
 A N P P S I C K R L Y D L Z Y
 G L R J Z W E W K R N X J E N
 E V E N I N G H O A A A G O G
 S C A V D Z X O H R G N H Y U
 X Q C O X A D E L Q O D E W J
 H T H R Q T O W N C G R L S A
 U E R J K Q T I E O U E P U M
 T J A H E R Y U P T E W E N E
 F O D L L S D E M O N S D S S
 M H H B E I U H S M I U F E J
 R N Z E A D P S F E V E R T A

FEVER	SIMON	HAND	DOOR	ANDREW
SUNSET	VILLAGES	PREACH	BED	DEMONS
JOHN	SYNAGOGUE	PEOPLE	JESUS	HELPED
HEALED	TOWN	EVENING	JAMES	SICK

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