

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

January 14, 2024 + SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where — or rather whom — we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

+ 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.





Second Sunday After The Epiphany

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Fon, 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 hear our Lord's call to believe and follow, to dedicate our lives in holiness.

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

Most merciful God,

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

Our ears are tuned to other voices;

our hearts are tempted by their call;

we fail to live in union with our Lord.

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.

Even before we knew our need,

our God knew us, and called us by our name.

In fulfillment of his promises through Moses and the prophets,

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to open heaven for all who believe.

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,

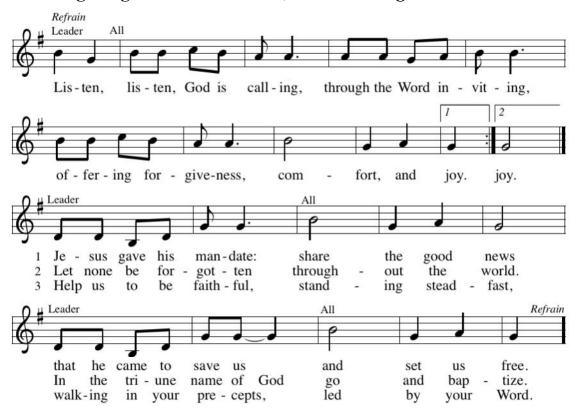
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Song

Listen, God Is Calling

#513



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Music: Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, b. 1919; Public Domain

Opening Litany

You speak to us in many ways, O Lord.

Help us to listen to you always.

In the words of Scripture shared in church and at home, speak to us, O Lord.

In the words of hymns and spiritual songs we sing, speak to us O Lord.

In the words preached from pulpits and the words written in daily devotion books, **speak to us, O Lord.**

In the words written to us in letters and notes from family and friends, speak to us, O Lord.

In the words exchanged in conversations we have with people, face to face or even over the phone, **speak to us, O Lord.**

In all ways in which messages are conveyed to us, may your words be heard both loud and clear.

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... (A brief silence is kept.)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give.

May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Litany

God, we are living inside your dream.

The dream of creation, the dream of time and space, the dream of humanity.

You dreamed us up and we are all yours

The dream of the Kingdom of God; in which all is done according to the law of love,

In which exploitation, inequality and poverty are unheard of and in which peace is normal.

In which separation from you and each other is an illusion, and in which Christ is King:

This is the ream we are living for.

This is the dream we must live out.

When it seems just beyond our reach love will bridge the gap. When it seems unimaginable love will give us imagination.

When it seems impossible, love will make a way. Help us to bravely step out now into the unknown.

Into the dreamed-of future into the beauty of now.

For you are Love, O God, and your dream is alive in our hearts. Amen.

+ WORD **+**

First Reading 1 Samuel 3:1-20

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the Lord comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

A reading from First Samuel.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time.

And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel!

Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the

house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said,

"Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you?

Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."

¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

Let us read Psalm 139 responsively.

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.

17How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

A reading from First Corinthians.

12"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

13"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

16Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." 17But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 18Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. 19Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and

that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.





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.



Holy Gospel John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

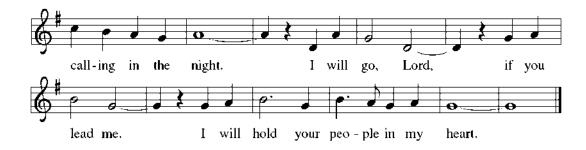
⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called

you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time Sermon





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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 Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth.

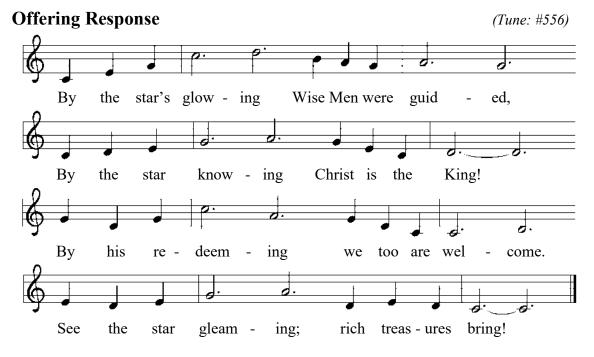
Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace, receive our prayer.

- P Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**
- A Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**
- P Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration, *especially*... God of grace, **receive our prayer.**
- A Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. 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 Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints, especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church. 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 +



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+ MEAL +

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

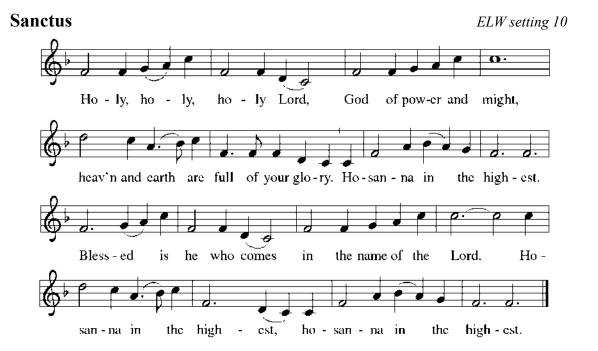
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

Summoning God, we thank and praise you because over and over again you call your people to hear your voice and entrust our lives to you. You make a temple of encounter in our bodies and a tent of meeting in the body of your Son.

You sing to us through the Law and the Prophets, and when we close our ears, you speak through a little child. Should we find the voice or the timing or the place of your vocation too strange to understand, you bid us simply to come and see. And so with heaven open and angels and archangels ascending and descending around your throne, we join the song of your eternal glory.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy God,

in baptism you have made our bodies parts of your Son's body. In his death we have died with him, and in his resurrection you have given us the freedom of the glory of your children. Take the brokenness of our flesh, and through the power of your Spirit

make your church a temple of your living presence and a crucible of encounter and reconciliation with you. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine that they 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, he 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 all people 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.

Merciful God, in Christ you call us from our places of belonging and safety to the adventure of your kingdom and the wonder of your mission.

Bless all who today have nowhere to lay their head, no community in which to belong, no good work through which to serve, and no future for which to hope.

In the power of your Spirit,
Andrew found Simon, and Philip found Nathanael:
send companions to any who experience life
as isolation, defeat, or disgrace.

Make your church a sheepfold where
the bewildered may enter a home,
the abandoned may discover a welcome,
the tired may find rest, and the imprisoned may be set free,
until the last traces of discord disappear from your creation
and you are all in all, one God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God. 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.

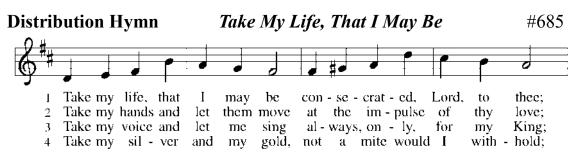


Distribution

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.

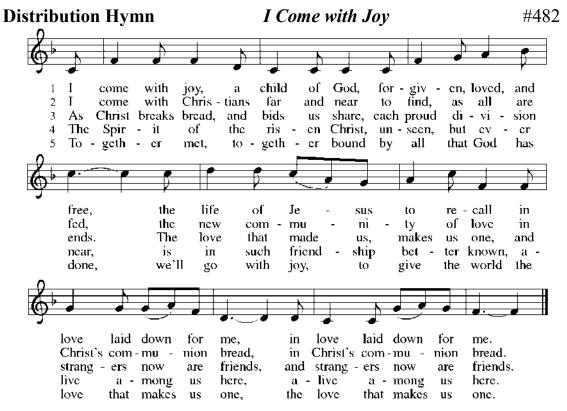




take my mo-ments and my days; take my feet and let them be take my lips and let them be take my in - tel - leet, and use let them flow in cease-less praise. swift and beau - ti - ful for thee. filled with mes - sag - es from thee. ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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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.



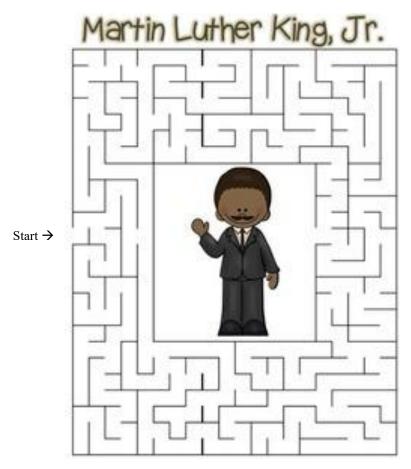


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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



S	E	R	V	A	N	Т	V	I	S	I	0	N	S	C
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V	C	G	C	Т	S	I	W	X	L	P	L	L	C	V
A	G	Α	E	J	E	G	N	0	Q	E	E	F	G	I
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LAMP	WORD	VISIONS	EYES	SERVANT
BOY	SPEAK	CALL	REVEALED	LORD
NIGHT	SAMUEL	LISTENING	WEAK	ARK
LIE	SEE	TEMPLE	THIRD	ELI

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