



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 11am-4pm; Fri: 9am-Noon, 1-4pm

January 22, 2023 + The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

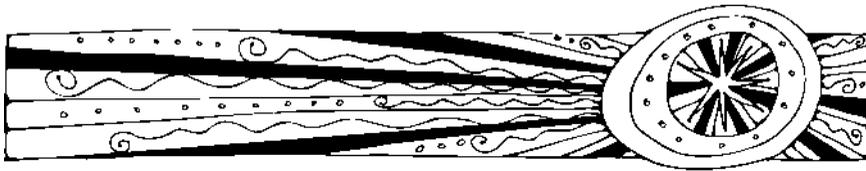
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

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 snack bags. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please take 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.





THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Confession & Forgiveness

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

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

**If we say that we have fellowship with him
while we are walking in darkness,
we lie and do not do what is true.**

But if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.**

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

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

Most merciful God,

troubled and penitent, we confess our sins to you.

Our deeds are evil; we have loved darkness rather than the light.

We languish in the shadow of death.

**Let your mercy dawn upon us for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son,
who calls us to repentance.**

Within our hearts, and in our lives, let there be light!

God, who once commanded light to shine out of the darkness,
has shone in our hearts to give the light
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,
who was handed over to death for our trespasses
and was raised for our justification.

For his sake your sins are forgiven;
in him the kingdom of heaven has drawn near.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, walk as children of light. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

I Love to Tell the Story

#661



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936
Public Domain

Opening Litany

Riding on the waves of a deep, dark sea,
a few fishermen saw the Savior and saw that the Light had come.
To those who sat in the region of death, Light had dawned.

Kneeling in the bowels of their boats, mending their nets,
the sons of Zebedee left their work behind to follow the Light.
The people who sat in darkness have seen a great Light.

From behind prison walls,
John the Baptist continued to testify to the Light.
For all the captives have been set free by the power of the Light.

Even now, in the darkest corners of our homes,
Christ's Light creeps in.
May we see the ways in which the Light has come into our lives.

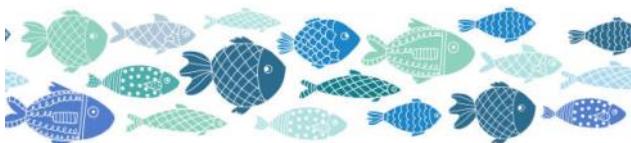
Even now, in our places of employment,
Christ's Light still catches our eye.
May we follow the Light of the Lord in everything we do.

And even now, in the dangerous places where life takes us,
Christ's Light reaches out to us.
May we find safety in the warmth of the Son's Light.

At every turn, we have seen God's glory,
**glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.**

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

Lord God,

your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.

Summon us into your light,

and direct our steps in the ways of goodness

that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord. Amen.



✝ WORD ✝

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Let us read Psalm 27 responsively.

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high upon a rock.

**⁶Even now my head is lifted up
above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

**⁸My heart speaks your message — “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
**Cast me not away — you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 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

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles —

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Children’s Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Will You Come and Follow Me

#798



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: Scottish Traditional
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Apostles' 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, 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 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: Called together to follow Jesus,
we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross.
Help us to work together across differences.
Energize ecumenical partnerships,
including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We rejoice at the bounty of your creation.
Fill the land and sea with your abundance.
Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere
and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere.
Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance.
Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation.
Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution.
Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid.
Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter,
are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely.
Especially we pray for...
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Sustain the ministries of this congregation
and all churches in this community.
Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence;
foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

A: We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us,
both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow,
and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God,
trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

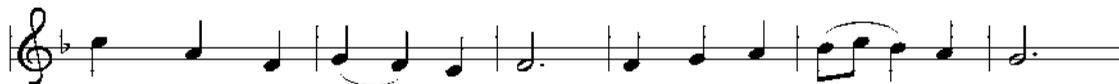
Peace

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

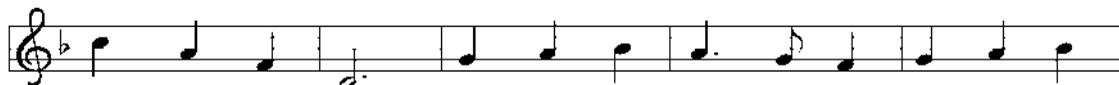
✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

(Tune: #408)



Un - chang - ing Fa - ther of Lights in whom the world de - lights,
There - fore your prais - es we sing, and in our hands we bring



by whom we live: help us to un - der - stand your ev - er -
gifts in re - turn. Use them, we hum - bly pray, to spread the



op - en hand brings bless - ings to the land; great gifts you give!
light of day that all, by its glad ray, your love may learn.

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

Worthy of praise and thanksgiving are you, Lord God,
for you summoned all things into being,
and from the beginning you beckoned your creation
to fullness of life in you.

Through covenant you claimed a people to share your life;
in slavery you called them to freedom;
in exile you summoned them to faithfulness;
in their sin you beckoned them toward your light.

From the first day until now
you have called creation to share your goodness.

In Christ you came seeking our salvation with your very life,
bidding us to come and follow.

Our rejection of him led to the horror of the cross,
but you have drawn us to yourself forever
through the glory of his resurrection.

And so with your people on earth and with the company of heaven,
we join the unending hymn.

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 -

Bless those today who wonder if they have strayed too far
 to be found by you or to belong among your people.
 Inspire all who struggle to know their purpose in your kingdom
 and long to hear your voice.
 Beckon your disciples to come and follow, to work alongside you,
 casting the net of grace, until all are gathered in and one in you,
 ever-seeking and ever-saving God,
 Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **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

I Come With Joy

#482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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Distribution Hymn

Here I Am Lord

#574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
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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.)*

Holy One,

we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,

and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

May God, the Source of life, hold you in the faith;

Jesus, the Word of life, speak clearly in truth around you;

and may the Holy Spirit, God's Breath of life, grace, and wisdom,

sing in your inmost being this day and all your days.

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

Sending Song

We Are Marching In The Light

#866

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). It features a melody with various rhythmic values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score includes triplets and slurs. The lyrics are: "We are march - ing in the light of God. we are march - ing in the light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God. we are march - ing in the light of God. We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo we are march - ing in the light of God."

We are march - ing (march ing, we are march ing) OO
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text & Tune: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984

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Tune: Public Domain

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



“Which commandment says if you don’t obey your parents you get a time-out?”

Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1)

