

First Sunday after Epiphany



January 8, 2017 + 11:00 am

**Zion Lutheran Church
Lexington, South Carolina**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP at ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are glad you have come to worship this day!

We especially welcome our Visitors and Guests!

We hope you feel right at home here at Zion. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you. You are invited to fill out a Visitor's Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider becoming a part of this community of faith and learning more about the mission and ministry of Zion. For more information about Zion Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, contact the church office (803) 356-2297, zionchurch@zionlexsc.com or visit our website, www.zionlexsc.com.

WORSHIP NOTES

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is offered to all baptized Christians who seek Christ's gift of grace. Visitors who receive Holy Communion in their home congregations are invited to share in this sacrament of grace. Gluten free bread is available to those with allergies. You may indicate this need to the pastor during communion distribution. Children who are not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing.



OUR STAFFED NURSERY is available for young children during worship. The nursery is located through the narthex/lobby area and down the hall to the right.

HYMNS not printed in the bulletin are in the back of the red WORSHIP hymnal.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.

+ FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY +

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all. **Amen.**

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

We kneel. Silence is kept for reflection and confession.

Loving God, **we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.**

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.

We stand.

GATHERING HYMN # 311

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be our daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



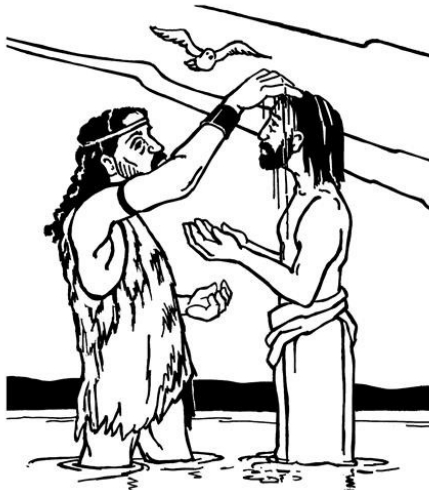
GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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



We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Young children are invited forward at this time.

*Following the Children's Sermon, children ages 3 through 3rd Grade may go to **Children's Church**. Meet the Children's Church leaders at the red door at the back of the church. Children will return from Children's Church during the offering.*

SERMON

Pastor Nathan Gragg

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 305

When Jesus Came to Jordan

APOSTLES' CREED

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

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

We sit.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We share our gifts for those in need and for the mission of the church.

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN # 314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

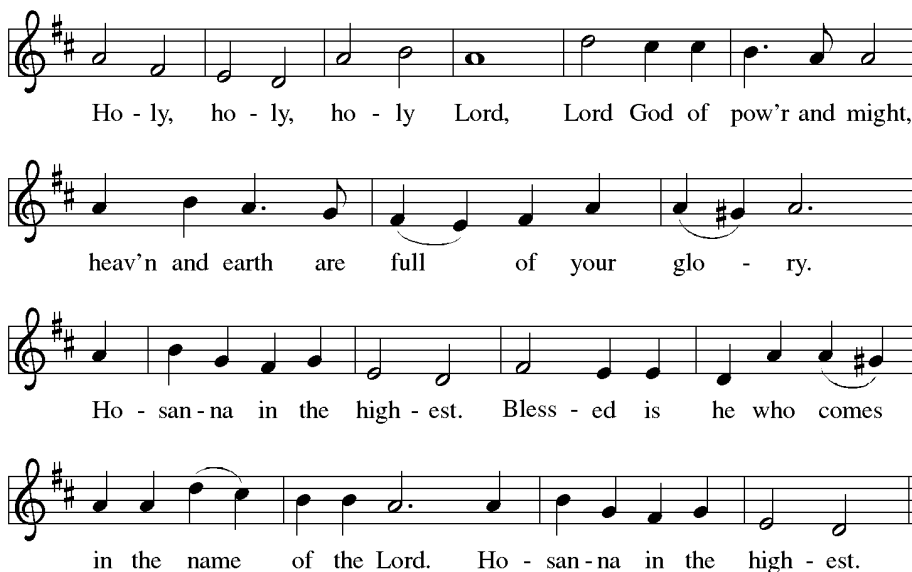
Life up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Christ welcomes you to this feast of the baptized!
We receive communion today by intinction at the head of the center aisle.
As the ushers direct you, proceed down the center aisle in two lines.
Hold the bread given to you and continue toward the side aisle nearest you
to receive the chalice into which you may dip your bread.
Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

We stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now - today, tomorrow, every day - that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN # 304

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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+ SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY & NEXT SUNDAY +

Presiding Minister

Pastor Nathan Gragg

SERVING IN THE SANCTUARY

	JANUARY 8	JANUARY 15
Acolyte Crucifer	Addie Phillips Nolan Phillips	Hannah Elrod Connor Burn
Altar Flowers	Edith Clark	OPEN
Assisting Minister	8:30—Kelly Jo Swygert 11:00—Sue Anderson	8:30—Kelly Jo Swygert 11:00—Sue Anderson
Communion Assistants 11:00	Susan Shumpert Betsy Burn	Will Reeside Katie McKinley
Lay Reader 11:00	Bob McCombs	Jennifer Elrod
January Ushers	Roscoe Nesmith, Larry Hook, Brad & Zach Ledford	
February Ushers	Chip Burn, Connor Burn, Kent Grant, Althea Hendrix	

SERVING OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY

	JANUARY 8	JANUARY 15
Children's Church	Dawn Keene	Wendy Nesmith
Coffee & Fellowship	Burn & Ledford Families	Janice Sult & Ethel Riley
Nursery Attendants	Althea Hendrix	Wanda Wingard

SERVING FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Chancel & Sacraments	James & Iris Harman	Steve & Janice Sult
Council Caregivers	Kathryn Barton Dianne Richardson	TBA
Offering Counters	Evelyn & Gary Varn Gail Fox	Randy & Beverly McCoy



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Sam Mailleue, Second Year Seminarian