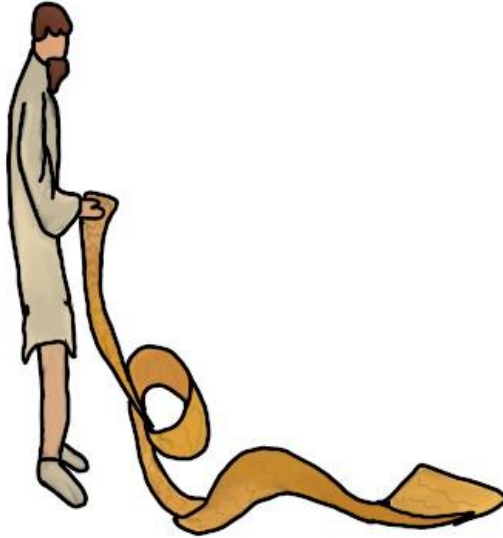


# 6th Sunday after Epiphany



Bulletin Art by Megan Granda - 10th Grade

**Morning Communion**  
**February 16, 2020 + 8:30am**

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Lexington, South Carolina**

*You are invited to use this time before worship begins  
for quiet prayer and meditation.*

## **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. You are invited to fill out a Welcome 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, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, contact the church office, (803) 356-2297, [zionchurch@zionlexsc.com](mailto:zionchurch@zionlexsc.com) or visit our website, [zionlexsc.com](http://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.

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS** may be placed in the plate at the head of the center aisle.

**HYMNS** not printed in the bulletin are from the red WORSHIP hymnal in the pew rack.

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP** you are invited to Coffee and Fellowship time and Sunday School. Please see the announcements page for schedule and locations.

**PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONICS AT THIS TIME.**

+ SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY +

**PRELUDE**

*We stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters. **Amen.**

As we seek the light of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*We kneel. Silence is kept for confession meditation.*

God who searches us and knows us, **you have shown us what is good and true, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have sinned against you, against those we love, and against those we do not know. We have not shared our gifts with others. We have chosen anger over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. Forgive us our sin, O God, and show us your salvation. Let the light of your grace renew us for life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for God is with you. **Amen.**

*We stand.*

**GATHERING HYMN # 713**

***O God of Every Nation***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*We sit.*

**FIRST READING**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Moses said to the people: See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 5:21-37**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and

if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Nathan Gragg

*Silence for reflection. Pastoral prayer.*

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 772**

***Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways***

*We stand.*

## **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 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: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

## **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.**

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy. **Amen**

*We sit.*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*We receive communion this morning at the head of the center aisle.*

*We commune by intinction. Hold your bread to dip in the chalice of wine.*

*You may return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*We remain seated.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*We stand.*

## **BLESSING**

## **SENDING HYMN # 663**

***Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word***

## **PEACE**

*We share the Peace of Christ with one another as we depart.*

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## **+ SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING +**

Presiding Minister  
Director of Music  
Assisting Minister

Pastor Nathan Gragg  
Julie Branham  
Janice Sult



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