

**3rd SUNDAY After EPIPHANY**  
**The Church Is Sent to Trust God**  
**January 22, 2023**  
**8:00 am**



Share the  
GOSPEL

Zion Lutheran Church  
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## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **AS WE GATHER**

The Reading of the Day is Acts 12:1-17. God has given His church the tools she needs to overcome adversity and stay focused on the Gospel task. Here we will see how the opposition to the Gospel is strong, severe even. And yet, the early church had access to resources—prayer, worship, fasting, and obedience—that are far more powerful than the most overreaching government. The church today has access to these same resources. Let us remember that our mission is marked not by ease, a lack of oppression, or even signs and wonders but by obedience and faithfulness to go into a hostile world and share the Gospel that changes lives.

### **WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING HYMN: LSB 644 The Church's One Foundation**

- 1 The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With ev'ry grace endued.

- 3    Though with a scornful wonder  
      The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping;  
      Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- 4    Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
- 5    Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
      With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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## **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: He made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

People: Then He forgave the guilt of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess to You that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and plead for Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Most merciful God, You have given Your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us obedient to Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**INTROIT:** Psalm 56; Antiphon verse 4

Pastor: Be merciful to me, my God, for my enemies are in hot **pursuit;**

**People: all day long they press their attack.**

Pastor: My adversaries pursue me all day long;

**People: in their pride many are attacking me.**

Pastor: When I am afraid,

**People: I put my trust in you.**

Pastor: In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.

**People: What can mere mortals do to me?**

Pastor: All day long they twist my words;

**People: all their schemes are for my ruin.**

Pastor: They conspire, they lurk, they watch my steps,

**People: hoping to take my life.**

Pastor: Because of their wickedness do not let them escape;

**People: in your anger, God, bring the nations down.**

Pastor: Record my misery;

**People: list my tears on your scroll—are they not in your record?**

Pastor: Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help.

**People: By this I will know that God is for me.**

Pastor: In God, whose word I praise,

**People: in the Lord, whose word I praise—**

Pastor: in God I trust and am not afraid.

**People: What can man do to me?**

Pastor: I am under vows to you, my God;

**People: I will present my thank offerings to you.**

Pastor: For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling,

**People: that I may walk before God in the light of life.**

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid.

**People: What can mere mortals do to me?**

### **KYRIE** (Spoken Responses)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** This is the Feast

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray together.

**All: Father, we come to You in faith and with expectation that You will answer our prayer according to Your will. We pray for the faithfulness of the persecuted church around the world. We pray for their boldness and ours to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples as Jesus commanded us. And we pray that we would pray ever more faithfully through Your Spirit that Your will would be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **TIME IN THE WORD**

**Children's Bible Reading:** Page 368

**Reading of the Day:** Acts 12:1-17

It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the

side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”

When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!” “You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.”

But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,” he said, and then he left for another place.

Reader: This Is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**



## **SERMON HYMN:** LSB 651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,  
Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,  
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.
- 4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n  
Till toils and cares shall end.
- 5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield  
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

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## **THE SERMON**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING | TREASURE BOX | PRAYER CARDS**

**OFFERING HYMN:** LSB 826 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,  
    “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—  
    Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
    Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
    “Here am I, send me, send me”?
  
- 2 If you cannot speak like angels,  
    If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
    You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
    With the judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children  
    To the Savior’s waiting arms.
  
- 3 If you cannot be a watchman,  
    Standing high on Zion’s wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
    Off’ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
    You can do what God commands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
    Holding up the prophet’s hands.

- 4 Let none hear you idly saying,  
    “There is nothing I can do,”  
While the multitudes are dying  
    And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly,  
    Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth,  
    “Here am I, send me, send me!”

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## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

#### **CLOSING HYMN: LSB 924**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

- 1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,  
    Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing,  
    Triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us; O refresh us,  
Trav’ling through this wilderness.

- 2 Thanks we give and adoration  
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful  
To Your truth may we be found.
- 3 Savior, when Your love shall call us  
From our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let not fear of death appall us,  
Glad Your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever  
Reign with You in endless day.

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## **SEND OFF**

Leader: At Zion Lutheran we are committed to reaching out,  
strengthening the saved,

**All: and serving Jesus Christ by serving others!**