

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 2022

P=Presider R=Responses

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

“He Touched Me” by William J. Gaither

(Please stand, kneel or remain seated)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R **Amen**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

R **we confess that we have sinned against you and others. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. Amen**

P Rejoice in this good news: your sins are forgiven. 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.

R **Amen**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” HYMN NO. 767

**Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.**

**Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.**

**Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.**

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825-1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

R **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**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R **And also with you.**

RESPONSE

(Please remain seated as you are able)

OFFERING

“Sometimes ‘Alleluia’” by Chuck Girard & *“Alleluia”* by Jerry Sinclair

P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 8th Chapter.
R **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. ³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

(Please be seated)

SERMON "It Doesn't Have to Be That Way!" **Rev. Ron Windecker**

GATHERING

(Please stand as you are able)

GATHERING HYMN "Amazing Grace" **HYMN NO. 779**

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

GREETING

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

R **And also with you.**

KYRIE *(from the Greek word "Lord" – Sung)* **HYMNAL p. 147**

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.

R **Lord, have mercy.**

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

R **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

R **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE (*Response Sung*) “*Glory to God...*” **HYMNAL p. 148**

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

R **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

R **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R **Amen**

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“All the People Said Amen”
by Matt Maher; arranged by Judy McGookey

Judy McGookey

WORD

FIRST READING **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.

¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

SECOND READING **1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

In the Apostles’ Creed, we speak of the “resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.” Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ’s perfect life into eternity.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Thy Word”*

Words & Music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith; CCLI #14301 © 1984 Word Music, LLC Meadow Green Music Co.

Thy Word is a lamp un-to — my feet and a light un-to my path.

Thy Word is a lamp un-to — my feet and a light un-to my path.

(Please stand as you are able)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray,
have mercy, O God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R 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

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

R Amen

SENDING HYMN

"Rock of Ages..."

HYMN NO. 623

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

DISMISSAL

A We share the joy of Christ.

R We worship, love, and serve.

"Sunlight" by Winfield S. Weeden & Judson W. Van DeVenter
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fredericksburg, Texas

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Go Like Our Facebook Page @ <https://www.facebook.com/zionfredericksburgtx/>

7th Sunday after Epiphany – February 20, 2022

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30AM

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30AM

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Margaret Priess, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dan and Judy McGookey in celebration of Collin's 31st Birthday on February 19.

New member Sunday planned at Zion Lutheran! If you wish to join or know of anyone who would like to join in the fellowship of Zion, please contact Pastor Ron or the church office at 997-2195.

There are a few open Sundays to give Altar Flowers in March, April & May.

The Worship Committee would like to thank David Hartmann for the chicken wire and Perry Strackbein for putting it on the Cross that goes out front during Lent. Blessings to both these great guys!

Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$3,265 and your Special Contributions of \$330 given last week. **Attendance:** 34

WORSHIP ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Rhonda Behrends

USHERS – Marlin & Laurie Hartmann, Margie Eckhardt, John & Carolyn Weaver

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY – Feb 20 9:00am Coffee & Donuts
 9:15am Sunday School – Fell Hall
 9:15am Adult SS – Sewing Rm
 10:30am In-Person Worship
 10:30am Service Broadcast on KNAF
 10:30am Service Live on YouTube www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube
 1:00pm Rescheduled Property Workday

MON – Feb 21 Office Closed in Observance of President's Day

TUES – Feb 22 5:50pm Choir Practice – Fell Hall

WED – Feb 23 **8:30am Laborers of Love – Arhelger House**

SUN – Feb 20 9:00am Coffee & Donuts
 9:15am Sunday School – Fell Hall
 9:15am Adult SS – Sewing Rm
 10:30am In-Person Worship with HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30am Service Broadcast on KNAF
 10:30am Service Live on YouTube www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube

A long-term effort to conduct research on what makes a healthy and growing church has been approved by the Council to undertake. End objective of the study is to come up with recommendations that would be deemed relevant for Zion. Research materials will be provided. If you are willing to devote your time and talents towards this effort, please call, text or email David Hartmann at cell: 830-660-0527; email d42hartmann@gmail.com.