

# SENDING

## \*BENEDICTION

P Wherever you go, may God go with you: may he go before you to show you the way...behind you to encourage you...beside you to befriend you...above you to watch over...and within you to give you peace. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

R **Amen**

\*SENDING HYMN "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" **HYMN NO. 538**

Choir Sings: The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a better place to live. *Repeat*

Choir Sings: The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. *Repeat*

**Cong: The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a better place to live. Repeat**

**Cong: The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. Repeat**

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923' English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

## \*DISMISSAL

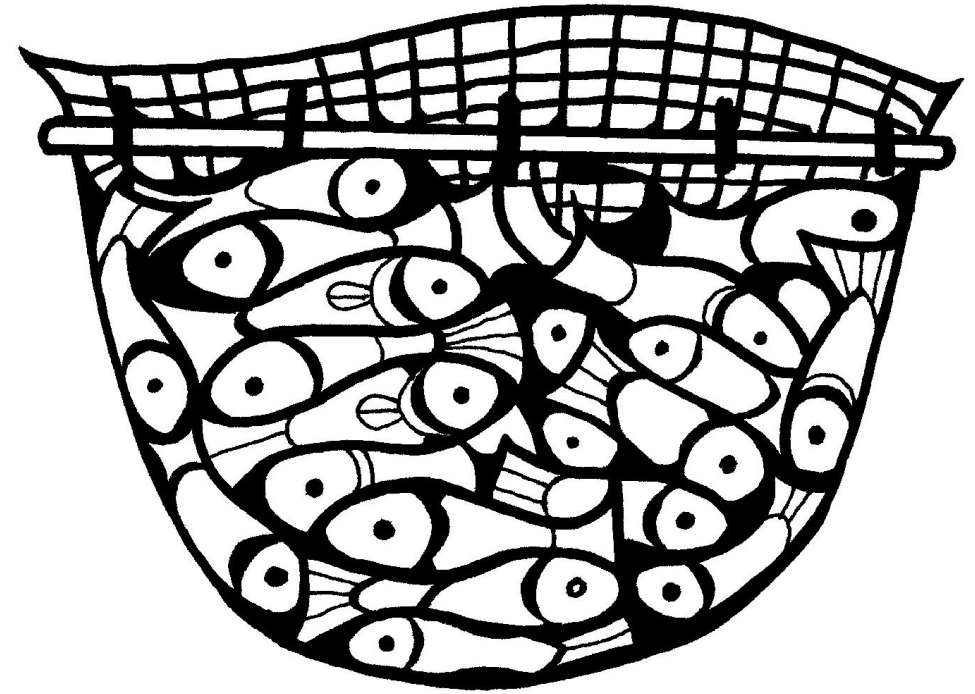
A Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

R **We worship, love, and serve. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* ~Music: Traditional English Melody; Lyrics: Isaac Watts

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103370 "Now the Feast and Celebration" liturgy and hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-721458. All rights reserved.



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
Fredericksburg, Texas

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

**January 25, 2026**

**Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 9:00AM**

*(go to [www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube](http://www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube))*

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

Pastor – Rev. Jonathan Mollenkopf

Pianist – Sheri Robinson

Choir Director – Rhonda Behrends

426 W. Main – PO Box 1571 – Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
(830) 997-2195 – [www.zion-lutheran.com](http://www.zion-lutheran.com) – email: [zionfbg@gmail.com](mailto:zionfbg@gmail.com)

**Go Like Our Facebook Page @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/facebook>**

**Follow Zion on Instagram @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/instagram>**

**Follow Zion on X @ <http://zion-lutheran.com/x>**

P=Presider **R=Responses** \*Please stand, as you are able

## GATHERING

### BELLS

**WELCOME** *(Please register your attendance in the books at the end of the row where you are seated, tear it out, and place it in the offering plate.)*

**PRELUDE** *"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"* by Charles H. Gabriel & Civilla D. Martin

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Psalm 27:1,4,6,7,8)*

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

**R One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

A Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**R Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!**

A "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

### \*GATHERING HYMN *"When Morning Gilds the..."* (vs.1,4,5) **HYMN NO. 853**

**When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,  
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er, today and evermore  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

## PRAYER

### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

### \*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R And also with you.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*OFFERING SONG *"Will You Come and Follow Me"* (vs.5) **HYMN NO. 798**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

### \*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Let us pray.

**R Praise and thanks to you, holy God.**

P Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life  
into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**R we give you thanks and praise.**

P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from  
exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**R we give you thanks and praise.**

P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to  
witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the  
way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**R we give you thanks and praise.**

P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith,  
increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.  
Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor  
and glory forever.

**R Amen.**

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

\***HYMN OF THE DAY** "Will You Come and Follow..." (vs.1-4) **HYMN NO. 798**

**"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

**Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?**

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?**

**Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?**

**"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?**

**Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**"Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?**

**Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?**

**Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## \*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**

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**R Amen.**

**P** Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Mighty God, lover of justice,

**R** **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

**P** The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**R Amen.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Shine, Jesus Shine"*

**HYMN NO. 671**

### **Refrain:**

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me:**

### **Refrain**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me:**

### **Refrain**

**\*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P God who sent the Light into our world, God who shone in the Bethlehem manger, God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

**R And also with you.**

P 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.

**R Amen**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "You Have Come Down..." ~by Cesareo Gabarain **Chancel Choir**

**FIRST READING Isaiah 9:1-4**

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he 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. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup>Now 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 knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What 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." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup>For 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. <sup>18</sup>For 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.

L The word of the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**HYMNAL p.205**



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.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**R Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the 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." <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>18</sup>As 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 fishers. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As 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. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news<sup>l</sup> of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**R Praise to you, O Christ.**