



Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Reflections

Arr. Felix Mendelssohn
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Sabbath Reverie

Arr. Henry Hiles
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WELCOME

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**
**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;**

we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness RED ELW #396
(Vs. 1 & 4)

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940
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GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 your 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ 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.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus 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:

⁶ I 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,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The 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 powerful voice;**
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD
 bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The 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 above the flood;**
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.'

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how 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.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not 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.⁴² He 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.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia* RED ELW page 142**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized RED ELW #304
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,
God's Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove, and yet
as urgent as a flame,
as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you, "My beloved Son";
you are God's servant true,
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,
God's holy will to do,
God's holy will to do.
- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;
your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God's service we
may perfect freedom find,
may perfect freedom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.

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WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER

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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

THE PEACE

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

In His Keeping

Arr. Mrs. C.H. Morris
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OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruiful RED ELW #182

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,
**no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

PREFACE

**HOLY HOLY HOLY
Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

RED ELW page 207

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest,

hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, “Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION

(Zion practices an open table. God welcomes everyone to come forward. Young children may receive bread and a blessing. If you prefer not to receive, fold your hands and receive a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please ask your servers. Come to the Lord's table and share in the feast!)

LAMB OF GOD

RED ELW page 146

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Seek Ye First

Arr. Karen Lafferty
One License #400

El Shaddai

Arr. John W. Thompson & Michael Card
CCLI #26856

Change My Heart, O God

Arr. Eddie Espinosa
CCLI #1565

I Love You, Lord

Arr. Laurie Klein
CCLI #25266

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve **RED ELW #551**
(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

- 1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;**
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ,**
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Go Now in Peace

Arr. D. Besig & N. Price
One License #206851

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

POSTLUDE

March of the Priests

Arr. Felix Mendelssohn
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Account #73982207—6/30/2025

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of January is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

Directory Updates—Please get any updates including physical address, mailing address, phone number or email address to Stacy. We are starting to look ahead to the Annual Report.

Nominating Committee—is still looking for a council secretary, two for the nominating committee and a Sunday School Superintendent. Please consider serving on one of these positions. See Larry Gieseke, Joe Prasad, Nancy Mathwig, Wendy Kube, Jane Scharpe or Pr. Gretchen.

AGAPE CONCERT—Wednesday, January 28, Hutchinson Event Center. We will leave Zion at 5:00pm. See Pr. Gretchen for details.

NOTICE OF

Zion Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00 am Call to Order

Recessed and

Reconvened Following Church Service

Agenda, minutes, and proposed budget will be placed in church mailbox prior to meeting date.

Zion Lutheran Church
814 W Brooks Street, PO Box 371
Arlington, MN 55307
507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com
www.zionarlington.org

Elephant Joe's Coffee—Only 8 bags of Elephant Joes Scandinavian Blend coffee are left. \$17 per bag. Proceeds to the parking lot fund. See someone from the Stewardship Board—Mary Kallhoff, Jackie Alsleben, Janet Rowe, Jane Scharpe or Pam Schiroo.

Board Reports—Please have all board reports turned into the office by Monday, January 19.

ZCW General Meeting will be held Sunday, January 18 after worship at 10:15am. This is in place of the meeting on Thursday, January 22.

Board of Stewardship will be hosting BBQ sandwiches after the Annual Meeting today.

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of January 11
Tuesday, January 13—2:30p-4:30p
Wednesday, January 14—3p-6p
by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours
Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

January 11

Usher: Wendy Kube, Cindy Quast
Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Greeter: Rich & Roseann Nagel
Acolyte: Grant Schauer
Reader: Scott Bergs
AV Team: Joe Prasad &
Tim Michaelis
Altar Guild: Lorraine Mielke,
Betty Rud
Bread Making: Jackie Alsleben
Paraments: Stacy Haggenmiller

January 18

Usher: Rich Nagel, Nick Schiroo
Larry & Pam Schiroo
Greeter: Lyle & Betty Rud
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson
Reader: Bruce Kallhoff
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &
Elton Hazelwood
Paraments: Stacy Haggenmiller

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Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday, January 11 | 9:00a | Worship w/Holy Communion |
| | 10:00a | ANNUAL MEETING |
| | 10:00a | Sunday School |
| Wednesday, January 14 | 7:00p | Church Council |
| Thursday, January 15 | 10:00a | Adult Bible Study |
| | 11:00a | Prayer Shawl |
| Sunday, January 18 | 9:00a | Worship |
| | 10:00a | Sunday School |

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

The voice of the Lord is
powerful.
PSALM 29:4