



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Dearest Jesus, At Your Word

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

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Air

Arr. Handel

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WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of humans,
**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.**

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.
Amen.

HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table RED ELW #522

- 1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**
- 2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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CCLI #5100983

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.

Holy God,

**you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure
in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for
peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews

and foolishness to gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

***Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* RED ELW #873
(Vs. 1, 2 & 6)**

- 1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your king.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

- 2 With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,
the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain***

- 6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain***

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.
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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

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Arr. Wilbur Held
One License #85343

OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful 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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

RED ELW page 207

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Arr. Gordon Young
One License #85343

Beautiful Savior
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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

Rise Up, O Saints of God! RED ELW #669
(Vs. 1, 2 & 5)

- 1 **Rise up, O saints of God!**
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

- 2 **Speak out, O saints of God!**
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

- 5 **Commit your hearts to seek**
the paths which Christ has trod;
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Furness, b. 1936

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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

Trumpet Voluntary

Arr. Gordon Young
One License #105743



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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 February is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

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.

Combined Circle Bible Study—Tuesday & Wednesday Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, February 4 at 1:30p.

Quilting—continues this week on Tuesday and Thursday starting at 9:00am

Chicken Dinner needs committee members. If you would like to be on the committee there will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 3 at 9:00am. Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2026 from 11am-2:00pm

Souper Bowl Sunday will take place on Sunday, February 8. This year we will again be asking for a soup can donation to the team of your choice. Bring your cans of soup and show your support to Sibley County FoodShare and vote for your favorite team! It's the Seattle Seahawks versus the New England Patriots.

Weekly Operating Offerings		Benevolences	Parking Lot Fundraising	
1/4/2026	\$ 2,311.00	\$ 112.35	Parking Lot	\$ 6,028.00
1/11/2026	\$ 1,688.00	\$ 86.43	Clattering Coins	\$ -
1/18/2026	\$ 2,715.00	\$ 170.25	Coffee Fund	\$ 150.00
1/25/2026	\$ 1,231.00	\$ 54.20	Cans for Kids	\$ -
Paypal and other donations	\$ 800.00			
January	\$ 8,745.00	\$ 423.23		\$ 6,178.00
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Weekly Operating Goal	\$ 3,611.50		2025 Monthly Budget Goal	\$ 15,649.83

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of February 1
Tuesday, February 3—11:30a-4p
Wednesday, February 4—2:30p-4p
Thursday, February 5—2:30p-5p
by appointment

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

Worship Assistants

February 1

Usher: Brad & Brenda Danielson
Larry Gieseke, Larry Klunder
Greeter: Jackie Alsleben
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Carrie Bartlette
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &
Elton Hazelwood
Altar Guild: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
Bread Maker: Carrie Bartlette

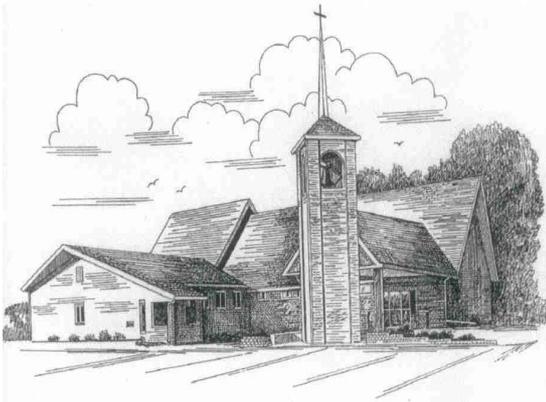
February 8

Usher: Jon Hazelwood, Elton Hazelwood
Kevin Kamps, Adilyn Kamps
Greeter: Carrie Bartlette
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Nancy Mathwig
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Lana Woehler, Jan Wark
Bread Maker: Carrie Bartlette

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Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, February 1	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School
Tuesday, February 3	9:00a	Quilting
Wednesday, February 4	1:30p	Combined Wednesday & Tuesday Bible Study (January Lesson)
Thursday, February 5	10:00a 6:30p	Adult Bible Study Committee Night
Friday, February 6		Confirmation Retreat at Zion
Saturday, February 7		Confirmation Retreat at Zion
Sunday, February 8	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Sunday School

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

