



light of the world."

Matthew 5:14

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

We Adore Thee, Eternal Lord

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

One License #10-755.2

Just As I Am

Arr. Robert Lau

One License #1315614

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

Rise, Shine, You People! RED ELW #665
(Vs. 1 & 4)

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**

- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.**

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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.

Lord God, **with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;

they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day

and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:]¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

This Little Light of Mine RED ELW #677

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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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

Ave Verum
Arr. C Gounod
One License #207563

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.
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.

RED ELW page 207

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

**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.**

RED ELW page 146

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

O Bread of Life
Arr. P.F. Knauntz

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

We Are Marching in the Light RED ELW #866

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

**We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.**

Additional stanzas ad lib:

We are praying . . .

We are singing . . .

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DISMISSAL

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

ANTHEM

**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

Go Now in Peace

Arr. D. Besig & N. Price
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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.

Quilting—Thanks to everyone who participated in this years quilting. The Quilt Dedication will be next Sunday, February 15.

Souper Bowl Sunday will take place today. 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.

Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 1 from 11am to 2pm. The sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Advanced tickets will be for sale after church today.

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	YTD Given	YTD Budget	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Parking Lot
YTD Balance			\$8,245.00	\$16,152.94			
2/1/2026	\$13,341.34	\$4,038.31	\$17,548.03	\$20,191.25	\$300.00	\$25.00	\$260.00

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of February 8

Tuesday, February 10—12p-3:30p

Wednesday, February 11—2:30p-6p

Thursday, February 12—3:30p-6p

by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

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

February 15

Usher: Stephanie Krueger, Murdock Krueger
Jim & Wendy Pederson

Greeter: Hannah Bartlette

Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez

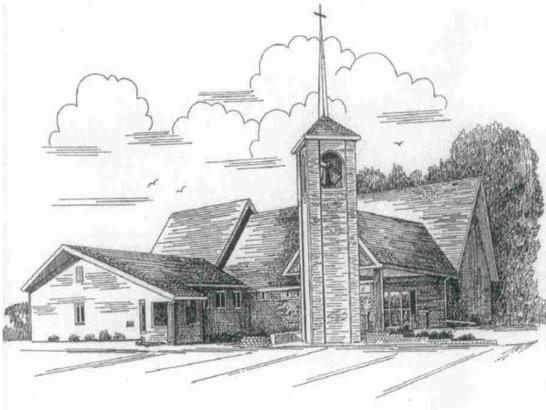
Reader: Laurie Stern

Paraments: Nancy Mathwig

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Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, February 8	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
		Souper Bowl/Food Shelf Donation
	10:00a	Sunday School
Wednesday, February 11	7:00p	Church Council
Thursday, February 12	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, February 15	9:00a	Worship
	10:00a	Sunday School
	12:30p	MN Valley Conference Meeting / St. Paul, Gaylord

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

