

Zion Lutheran Church

Oldwick, New Jersey



Season after Epiphany

Communion Worship Service

WELCOME

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the booklet in the pews. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel and hymn numbers. The hymns are located in the red hymnal. Children's activity bulletins are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... social activities, meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless, feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world, providing camp scholarships to needy children, and providing access to medication to those in need.
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... tithing (10% of our budget) to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

WORSHIPING IN THE SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In the book of Isaiah, 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.

CELEBRATING CHILDREN AT ZION

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. We claim the noise and activity of children as a sign of a healthy church. Children will always be welcome here!
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.
- Quietly explain the part of the service and the actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.
- Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

- The presence of children is a gift to the church, and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.
- Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

See weekly bulletin

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

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

See weekly bulletin

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

See weekly bulletin

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

See weekly bulletin

The holy gospel according to ...
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

See weekly bulletin

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

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you."*

Please be seated.

OFFERING and OFFERTORY MUSIC

Please stand, as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our lives. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

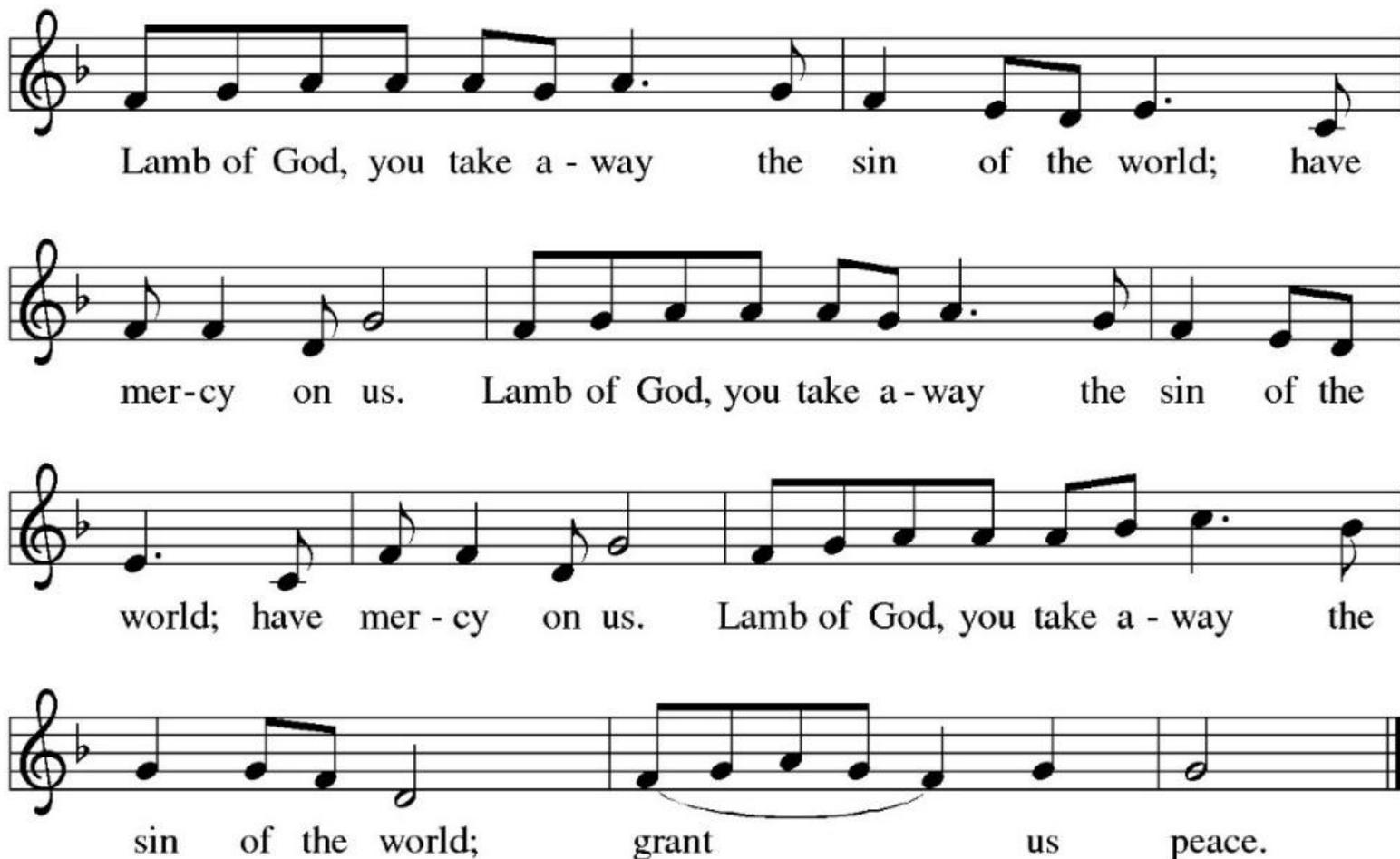
The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand. Please dip the bread into the cup of wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (gold chalice). Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are invited to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew.

COMMUNION MUSIC

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

Please be seated.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (11 a.m.)

See weekly bulletin

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Pastor

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Jaime VanNostrand

Bell Choir Director

Janet Hornich