

Lectionary 3A

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Service of Holy Communion



January 25, 2026
9:00 am

Zion Lutheran Church
Phillipsburg, KS

Introduction to the day

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS *(From Sundays & Seasons)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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,
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 presiding minister proclaims words of absolution.

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.

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

GATHERING SONG – *The Summons* (ELW #798; W&P #137)

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self - be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners -
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my life at -
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let my an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit what I
world a - round, through my sight touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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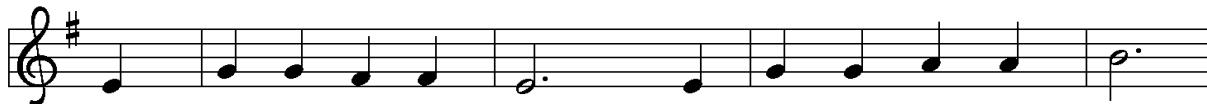
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GREETING (ELW page 147)

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.

KYRIE (ELW Setting 10, page 203)



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE – (ELW Setting 10, page 204)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*ELW page 23*)

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.

Amen.

Assembly is invited to be seated

CHILDREN SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon
the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

Refrain: The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
 hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.
⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
 Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will
 sing and make music to the LORD.

Refrain: The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
 have mercy on me and answer me.
⁸ My heart speaks your message - “Seek my face.”
 Your face, O LORD, I will seek.
⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
 Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
 salvation.

Refrain: The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)

SECOND READING: 1st Corinthians 1:10-18

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

¹⁸ 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW Setting 10, page 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ 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.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ 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. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Assembly is invited to sit

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW #574)

Here I Am, Lord

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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Assembly is invited to stand as able.

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Adapted from Sundays & Seasons)*

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

After each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Final petition: ...in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE *(ELW page 152)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Assembly is invited to remain standing as able.

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord (ELW #184)



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. 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 dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER (From Sundays and Seasons)

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (ELW page 152)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

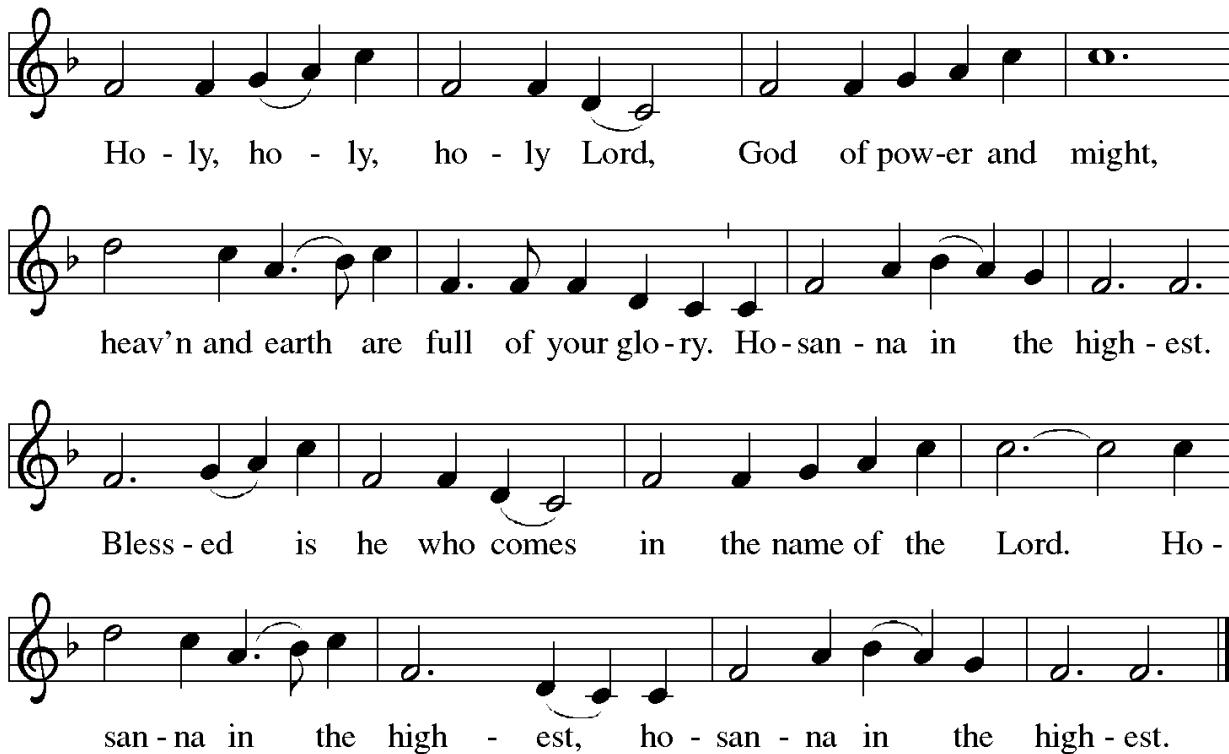
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus) (ELW Setting 10, page 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW page 132)

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the 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 sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*ELW page 154*)

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,

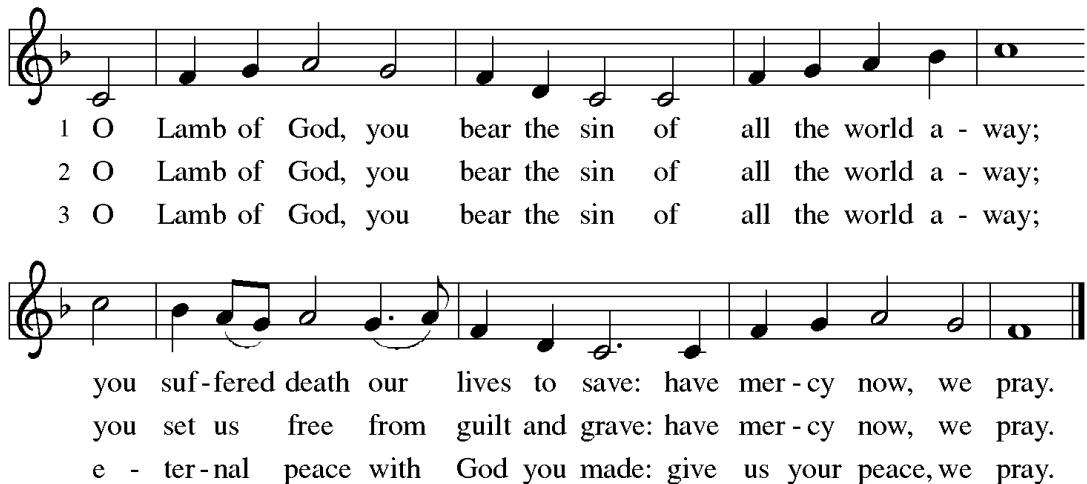
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*from Sundays & Seasons*)

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

Come to the table; taste and see.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) (ELW Setting 10, page 208))



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Assembly is invited to sit.

Assembly is invited to stand as able.

After all have communed, the Presiding Minister may continue with this or similar words: (LBW page 92)

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from Sundays & Seasons)

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.

BLESSING (Adapted from Sundays & Seasons)

May the triune God – Father, **✚** Son, and Holy Spirit – who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW #661)



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

DISMISSAL (*from ELW & LBW, multiple settings*)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LESSER FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Monday, January 26, 2026

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

EMMANUEL & ZION PRAYER LIST

Sick, injured, or grieving: Janet Conn, Jessica Gooder, Shannon Jarvis, Brandi Jerby, Terry McCall, Bert Mongeau, Eldon Preuss, Janice Miller, Sharon Krafft, Janice Giedd, Troy Blubaugh, Mindy Horner Lamont, and Baby Henry.

Military - Jared Dillon, Jessica Kreller, Bryan Lenker, Anthony Swarts, Major Monica Riggs, Brady Sunley, Col. Lisa Mullinax, Col. Mark Mullinax,

Homebound or in care facilities: Jean Daniels, Sharon Krafft, Don Merklein, Ehrhart Merklein, Dorothy Hanke, Norma Preuss, Ray & Donna Zillinger, Betty Zillinger, Wilma Beckman, and Connie Winter.

TO ADD PRAYERS: If you wish to add someone to the printed prayer list, please email or call Janice Giedd at jgiedd@ruraltel.net or (785) 543-6705. Please make sure the person being added consents to being on a public prayer list. Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless otherwise notified. If you wish to have an emergency prayer request sent over text, please contact Pastor Lee Bennight: pastorleebennight@gmail.com (785) 302-1923 or Pastor Kathy at kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com or (785) 302-1876.

ZION & EMMANUEL COMBINED CALENDAR

Sunday, January 25 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 3A)

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship Service

Wednesday, January 28

- 2:00 pm – Zion & Emmanuel Worship at PCRC
- 7:00 pm – Confirmation

Sunday, February 1 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 4A)

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship Service

Wednesday, February 4

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation

Sunday, February 8 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 5A)

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship Service

Wednesday, February 11

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation

Thursday, February 12

- 6:00 pm – Zion Council

Sunday, February 15 – Transfiguration Sunday (Year A)

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship Service
- 2:00 pm – PCRC Holy Communion Service
- 5:00 pm – Parish Council at St. John.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- ASH WEDNESDAY (February 18)
- PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (February 29)
- MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 2)
- GOOD FRIDAY (April 3)

- EASTER (April 5)
- CONFIRMATION SUNDAY (April 26)

ZION WORSHIP SERVERS			
	TODAY Sunday (01/25/26) <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 3A) At 9:00 am</i>	Sunday (02/01/26) <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 4A) At 9:00 am</i>	Sunday (02/08/26) <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 5A) At 9:00 am</i>
Presiding Minister	Pastor Lee	Pastor Lee	Pastor Kathy
Lector /Reader	Sue Kipp	Katie Grote	Christi Driggs
Acolyte	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Children's Sermon	Pastor Lee	Pastor Lee	Pastor Lee
Musicians	Jean Ann Wagner	Jean Ann Wagner	Jean Ann Wagner
Sound System / Media	Dennis Keesee	Benny Bennight	Shellie Lare
Greeters	Keesee Family	Jeff & Tamra Griffey	Brad & Shellie Lare
Ushers	Dennis Keesee	Nathaniel Grote	Howard King
Altar Guild	Cesha & Steven Rust	Shellie & Brad Lare	Shellie & Brad Lare

CONTACTS:

- Rev. Lee Bennight, (785) 302-1923, pastorleebennight@gmail.com
- Rev. Kathy Whitney, (785) 302-1876, kbwhitneyrev@gmail.com
- PMA Candidate Andrea Keesee, (785) 533-2723, akeesee@nex-tech.com
- Shellie Lare (Zion President), (785) 302-0827, bslare@ruraltel.net
- Lindsay Gannon (Emmanuel President) (850) 227-8654, dusin_32@hotmail.com

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

- Zion website: www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org
- Parish website: www.disciplesoftheplains.com
- Central States Synod: www.css-elca.org