

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. 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.

- † Preacher – The Reverend Wes Smith
- † Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider
- † Worship Leaders- Brian & Liz Griswold

**CONFSSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, <sup>†</sup> 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.*

Merciful God, **we forget so easily that we are not self-sufficient beings. We breathe your air, we see by your light, the life we have comes from your power. Forgive us for forgetting and return us to connection with you and all you have created, that we might live in peace and joy. For we pray in the name of Jesus, who came as the way, the truth, and the life. Amen**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of <sup>†</sup> Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN 1: Come, Now is the time to Worship**

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your God, Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God  
One day, every knee will bow  
Still, the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

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**OPENING HYMN 2: Amazing Grace**

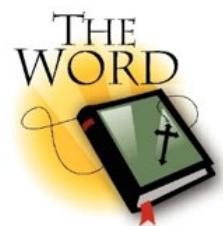
- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

**Prayer of the Day** - 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.**

### **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Micah 6: 1- 8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> 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.



<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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."

<sup>6</sup> "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? <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> 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? The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

#### **Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?



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

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

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 5: 1 - 12; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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

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

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

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

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> 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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SERMON – The Irony Of True Happiness The Reverend Wes Smith

### **OFFERING HYMN: You are My All in All**

1. You are my strength when I am weak  
You are the treasure that I seek  
You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel  
Lord to give up, I'd be a fool  
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,  
Rising again, I bless Your name  
You are my all in all

When I fall down, you pick me up  
When I am dry, you fill my cup  
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name  
Worthy is Your name

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## OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we follow the Magi in giving you gifts, praying that as you receive our acts of offering, you would shine the light of Christ in our hearts to lead us in lives which serve you more deeply. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

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. *A brief silence.*

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. (*Please name silently or out loud.*) Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

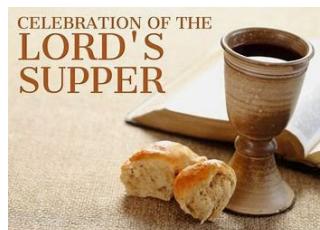
Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

And we continue to give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ,  
Who was born a man, Who lived among us to reveal your glory and love,  
That our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

Who 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.



Make us one with him and with one another, that we may live for others as he lived for us until that day when we shall feast with him in glory. And hear us as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray,

**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** There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

### COMMUNION HYMN: When Peace like a River

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**
2. Though Satan should buffet,  
though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.  
**Refrain**
3. He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
**Refrain**
4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

**Refrain**  
It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

**Closing 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.**

**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: ELW#537 – On our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy? <b>Refrain</b>	2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring; unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. <b>Refrain</b>
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**Refrain**

On our way rejoicing;  
as we forward move,  
hearken to our praises,  
O blest God of love!

### Song of Blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God's way.  
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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



## Zion Lutheran Church LBI

18th Street & Central Ave

PO Box 152

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

(609) 494-8676

ZionChurchLBI@gmail.com

www.ZionLBI.com

## Notes: