



Altar copy

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Zion Lutheran Church
230 Cemetery Road
P. O. Box 4
West Jefferson, Ohio 43162
614 879-8107
Jon Meister, Presider
www.zionlutheranwj.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111, God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in the actions and word of Jesus. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.
C Amen.

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of life,
C you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have

mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the Earth shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: (ELW 513)

Listen, God Is Calling *Neno lake Mungu*

Refrain
Leader All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,

1 2



ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All



Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*



Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune

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GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
C **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen,**



FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Please be seated.

L A reading from Deuteronomy.

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the Promised Land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die."
¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 111

Read responsively.

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the deeds of the LORD! They are studied by all who delight in them.**

³The LORD's work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **The LORD makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵³The LORD gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **The LORD has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹ The LORD sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1st Corinthians 8: 1-13

L A reading from 1st Corinthians.

Paul is concerned about how some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable, believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause a sister or brother to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in Heaven or on Earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL: Mark 1: 21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

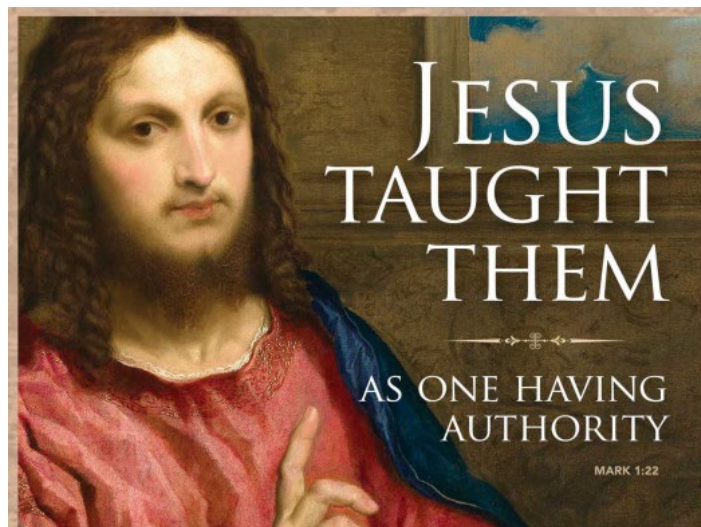
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story has barely begun and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

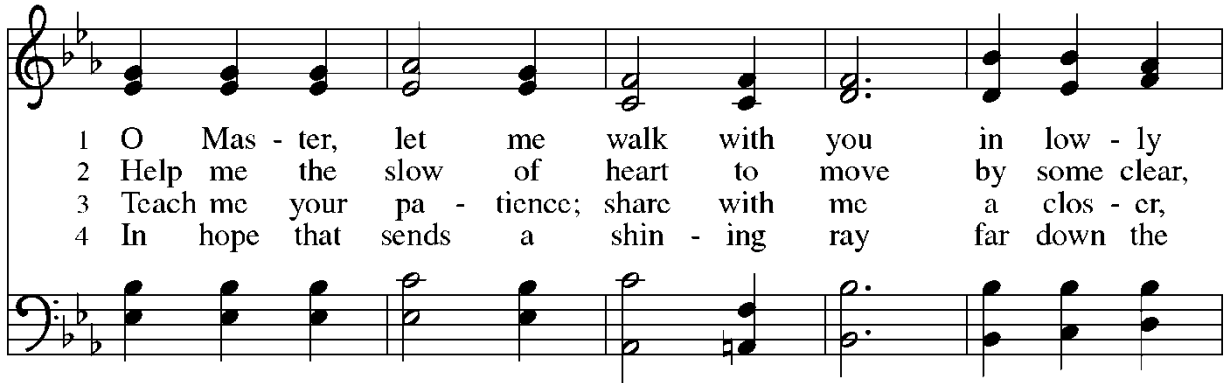
P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

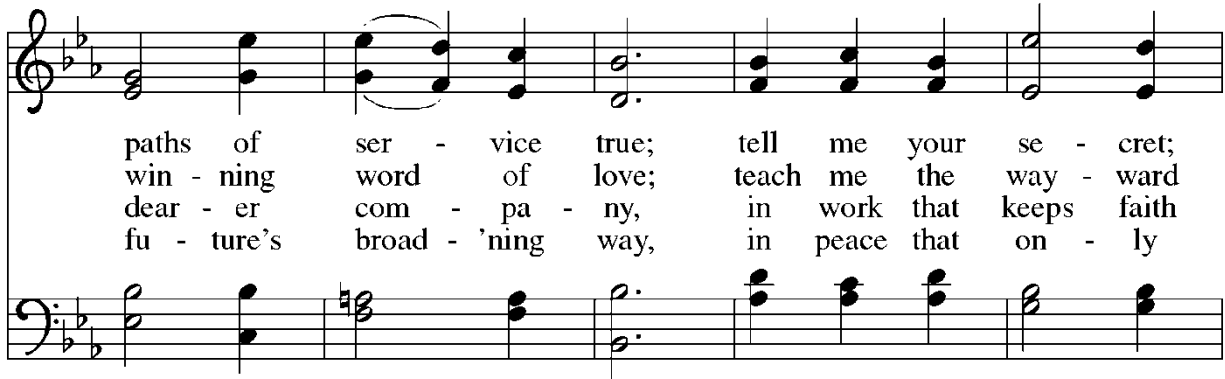


SERMON

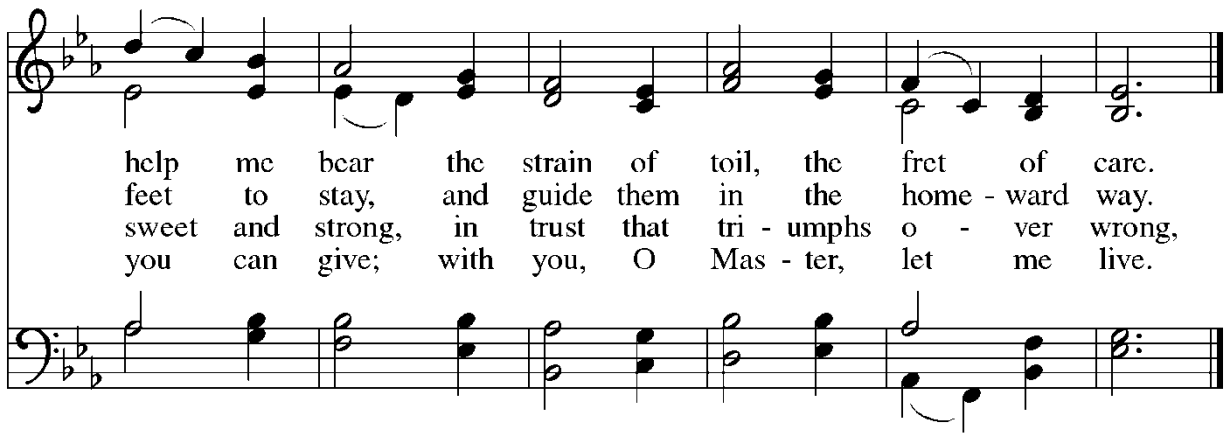
Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *O Master, Let Me Walk with You* (ELW 818)**O Master, Let Me Walk with You**


1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836–1918, alt.
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825–1898

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APOSTLES' CREED

A Join me in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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

A As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the Church, the World, and all of creation.

Silence for reflection.

A Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your Church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the Earth. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways.

God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer especially Michael, Niki, Aurora, and all whom we keep in our hearts. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

P Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

SHALOM

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

P Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

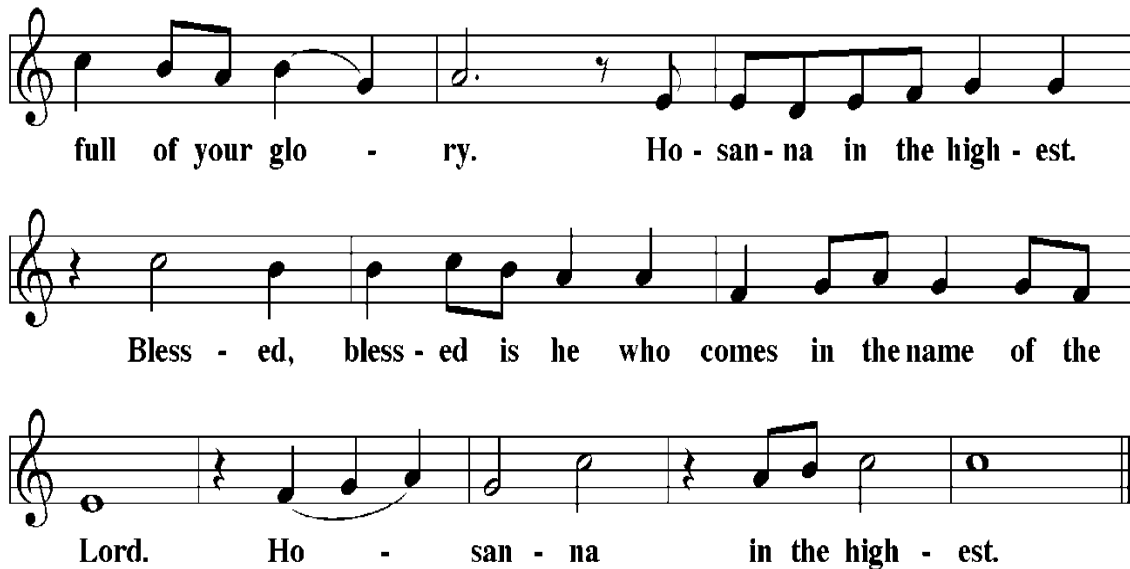
PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
(Preface is in the pocket of the Pastor's binder.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,' are written below the staff, with a slur under the final 'ho - ly'. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, including a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above them. The lyrics 'Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are' are written below the staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray the prayer you taught us:

C **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

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

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

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.
C Amen

BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
 ✚ bless you and remain with you always.
C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Rise, Shine, You People!* (ELW 665)*Sing only verses 1, 2, and 4.***Rise, Shine, You People!**

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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DISMISSAL**A** Go in peace. You are God's beloved.**C** *We go out - Reaching in for the Holy Spirit, Reaching up for God's Grace, Reaching out with Christ's love. Amen! (The words in italics are Zion's mission statement.)***POSTLUDE**

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Serving during worship this morning:**Presider:** Jon Meister**Musician(s):** Jerry Gossett**Food fund donations:**

Serving during worship next week:**Presider:** Jon Meister**Musician(s):** Jerry Gossett**Food fund donations:****ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We welcome our guests and visitors this morning. Please take a moment to speak with Jon, Jerry, or Louise before you leave. All Baptized persons, at Christ's invitation, are welcome to commune.

CONTACT THE PASTOR

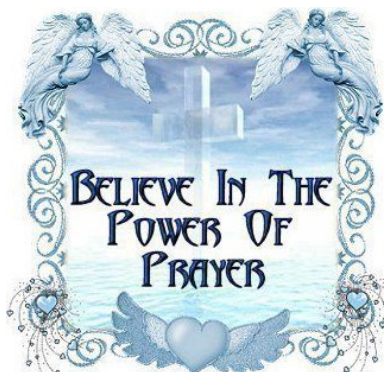
Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.

COMING EVENTS AT ZION**SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH** We

have Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at 9:45 each week. We are going to be reading a book by C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* and discussing it. I am looking forward to the new format. Please come and bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you.



FINDING US ON THE INTERNET Some of you may know that the church has a wonderful website that was designed by Susie Taylor. She does a wonderful job updating it every week. Susie also has her own page on Facebook that I have referred to on several occasions. There are many items on her site that are great for thoughts of the day. It is [Stix-N-Stonez](#). Check it out. However a new blogger on the scene is Alex Meister. Find him at "christianameister.wixsite.com/blog". Alex has posted many of his essays on different topics relating to Christianity. Some we have discussed in our Sunday Bible Studies. I invite you to check out all of these sites. Then come to Bible Study and discuss your feelings.

PRAYERS

Aurora is finished with her chemo treatments. Please continue to keep her and her parents and Grandma in your prayers. (Possibly the best way to reach Aurora and her family is through Margret, 8461 Silverbell Ave., Galloway, 43119.)

We are also praying for Nicole Biler Robinette, (Tim's daughter). She is on the transplant list for a new heart. We pray that this will happen soon. She is currently at home but will be called back to the hospital soon until an organ becomes available. Tim says that she is in good spirits. Keep her; her husband, Stephen; and her parents and family in your prayers.

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Michael Koch; Wesley and JoAnn Porter; Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick, especially Arlene Castor.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. Michael has moved to *The Grove*, a facility that is much closer to his home. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid Keep all of the Koch's in your prayers.

If you hear or know of anyone who should be on our Prayer List, please let me know, my number is 614-398-6302

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 11th A very busy Sunday. First of all, we will be celebrating Transfiguration Sunday. We will all need to think of some way that our lives have been transformed by Christ. Not by football. However, the 11th is Super Bowl Sunday and we will have our annual Souper Bowl Sunday Offering.

FEBRUARY 14th is our annual Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. It is also Valentine's Day. If you wish to celebrate love after we celebrate the love that God has shown for us, please do so. Our service usually only lasts about an hour.

These overlaps do not happen very often. Please try to attend our Pre Lent services.

