**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY- JANUARY 23, 2023**

**ZION LUTHERAN, PHILIPSBURG**

**GATHERING**

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

**LAND ACKNOWLEGEMENT**

We begin by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For thousands of years, the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples have sought to walk gently on this land. They aided the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We remember their love of this land and seek a new relationship based in honour and deep respect.

**ANNOUNCMENTS**

Welcome to worship this morning on this Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 22, 2023. (Talk about the weather if you wish)

Pastor Leanne is off this Sunday. Our sermon today was written by Pastor Tanya Varner.

Please have any articles for the Messenger to Pastor Leanne by Tuesday January 24.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Feb 12. A potluck lunch will be held at 11:30 followed by the meeting at 12:30. Please have all reports to Susan Seyler by January 29. The reports will be available in your boxes February 5.

Are there any other announcements today?

Our opening hymn is I love To Tell the Story, hymn number 661. Please rise as you are able.

**GATHERING SONG*I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)**

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain
I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. Refrain

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. Refrain

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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 p. 213)**



**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

1There 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.
 2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
 4For 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm** **27:1, 4-9- read responsively by whole verse**

 1The 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.**
 5For 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.**
 7Hear 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.**
 9Hide 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.

**SECOND READING:****1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.*

10Now 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 united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12What 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.” 13Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so 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.) 17For 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.
 18For 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

12Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14so 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—
 16the 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.”
17From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
 18As 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 fishermen. 19And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21As 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. 22Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.
 23Jesus went throughout 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON (ELW p. 217)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons* (ELW 798)**

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

**CREED (ELW p. 217)**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, food, medical care, those who are facing maltreatment, and all who are isolated and lonely. We especially pray for Sarah, Anne, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Susan, Marg, Marlene, Felix, Debbie G, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts ( good pause).  Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation, the congregations of the Nith Valley Ministry Area and our neighbouring churches. Nurture each congregation’s unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. We remember this week, Harold Seyler. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

I invite you to share a sign of peace however you feel comfortable.

Folks at home, I invite you to share a sign of peace with those around you,.. If you live alone know that we value your presence and wish you deep peace.

Peace to you all!

**OFFERING HYMN- Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 186)**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING- Salvation Belongs To Our God  (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Holy God,

Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,

we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom

and inviting us to follow your call.

For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,

who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted.

For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word,

that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,

we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

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**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

*The presiding minister may introduce the 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.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**

*\*1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

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