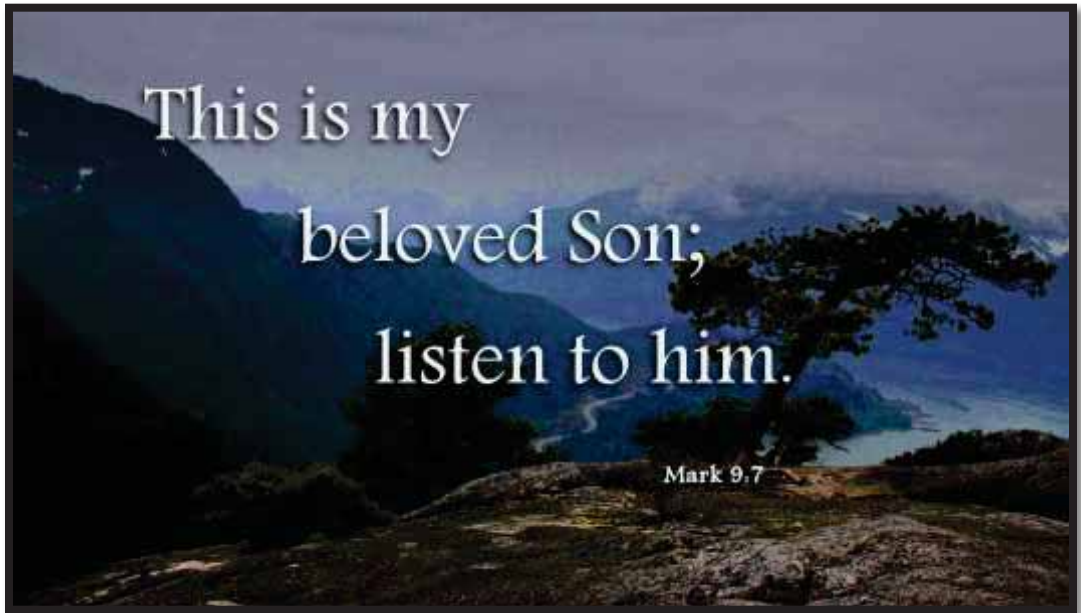


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by The LaJeunesse Family in Honor of their grandson Gabriel's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Ross & Christine Chilcott in Honor of Callista's Birthday.
- **ETERNAL LIGHT** is given by Megan Richards in Memory of Harry Richards.
- **BIBLE IN A YEAR** readings are available on our church's website and in your monthly Zion Newsletter. Join us as we read the Bible in a Year in 2016!
- **OPERATION STARS & STRIPES** collections have begun. Please donate items for this great mission. Donations will be taken until the end of January. We currently have Raman Noodles -66, Granola Bars – 36, Packs of Gum – 9, Drink mix singles – 127 and Slim Jim's - 208
- **YOUTH GROUP** will be having an event TODAY Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> from 5-7:00pm. Be ready for a Blow Dart Battle! Bring your friends
- **SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY.** Wednesday's we will continue our study of Romans. Come and join us as we study the book of Romans together. The fun starts at 7:00pm.
- **CHURCH NURSERY:** Is available for kids age 0-2 during the 10:30 Service! The Nursery ("Little Lions") is open during the late service in the lower level of the building. (If you need help locating the nursery, please ask an Usher or Greeter for assistance.)
- **CHILDRENS CHOIR** is every Tuesday from 6:00 – 6:45 PM, Kids ages 7-12 are welcome!!
- **BELL CHOIR.** We are looking to expand our music ministry and need your help! We are in the process of establishing a hand bell choir here at Zion! **THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS BUY HANDBELLS. WHICH, AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, ARE NOT CHEAP.** If you would like to give to this ministry, please note on the MEMO LINE OF YOUR CHECK (OR, IF YOU ARE GIVING CASH, ON THE OFFERING ENVELOPE) that you would like to give to the hand bell choir. Thank for you for support of the music ministry here at Zion! **AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR HANDBELL CHOIR!**
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** can use your help! We want to expand Children's Church to twice monthly. If you want to help out with this ministry to our children, please contact Pastor Duncan or the Church Office. We'd love to have you serve!
- **ADULT CHOIR** rehearsals are Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00PM. We are looking to add to our numbers from last year! Do not worry if you can't attend regularly, we can work around just about any schedule!
- **NEED PRAYER?** Stephen Ministers and Elders will be available to pray with or for you following the Service in the Chancel area.
- **TODAY'S GOSPEL READING AND SERMON** will be posted to the ZLCB.org website later today. For an archive of older sermons, visit [www.zlcb.org/sermons](http://www.zlcb.org/sermons)

# Welcome to worship!

Yesterday our Bible in a Year reading was Genesis 22-24. Now, it's not that today's reading (Genesis 25-27) isn't interesting or sermon-worthy, it is. You have Jacob and Esau, deceit and drama, blessing and curses all in three short chapters. It's just that yesterday's reading included our Old Testament Lesson, which is a text that is hard to pass up when it comes to preachable material.

God tells Abraham that he must go and sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac, on Mt. Moriah, a three-days journey from the family home. Abraham is being asked to do the impossible. God has promised that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through Isaac, whom he now wants Abraham to kill? Isaac is a beloved son; what father could (or would) follow through on the orders given to kill him (regardless of who gave those orders)? Would you?

This is a story about a love of a father for his son and obedience to God, but it leaves us with difficult questions about our faith and love, and even more difficult questions about God. If God claims to be a God of love and compassion, how can he ask a father to kill his only son? And if we are commanded not to murder, then why would (or how could) God command his people to take innocent life?

It's a tough text. And that's why we're going to take a look at it this morning!

God bless your time in worship this morning!

-Pastor Duncan

Rev. Duncan McLellan, Pastor  
Office Phone: 412-221-4776

Pastor's Phone: 412-667-0967  
Website: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)



**ZION EQUIPS, EDUCATES, AND ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, SENDING THEM INTO THE WORLD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.**

Zion Lutheran Church 3197 Washington Pike Bridgeville, PA 15017

# The Divine Service

(Please take a moment to fill out the Attendance books, located at either end of the pew. If you are visiting us this morning and would like to be contacted by the church, please indicate so in the Attendance Book. We are glad you chose to worship at Zion this morning!)

## ***Prelude – Onward, Christian Soldiers***

## ***Introduction to Worship and Announcements***

***Opening Hymn: Onward, Christian Soldiers***

662

## ***The Invocation***

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## ***Confession of Sins***

**Pastor:** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## ***Absolution Spoken by the Pastor***

**People:** Amen.

***Hymn of Praise:*** This Is the Feast

155

### **Refrain:**

*This is the feast of victory of our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

**[REFRAIN]**

*Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are His.*

**[REFRAIN]**

*Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

**[REFRAIN]**

*For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.*

**[REFRAIN]**

## ***The Prayer of the Church***

(Please be seated)

## **The Service of the Word**

### **The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-18**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

### **Psalm of the Day:**

### **Psalm 24**

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,  
for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.  
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.  
He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory! *Selah*

**Pastor:** In honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, we rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**New Testament Reading:** **Mark 9:2-13**

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. And they asked him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things.

And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

***Sermon Hymn: Within the Father's House***

**410**

***Sermon***

(Please stand)

***The Apostles' Creed***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

***Offertory – Adult Choir – Come All Christians, Be Committed***  
***(10:30 service)***

***The Collection of the Offering***

If you are visiting with us this morning, know that your presence here means far more to us than any gift of money you could make; please do not hesitate to let the plate pass you by.

(Please stand)



## The Service of the Sacrament

Pastor: As we prepare to receive the body and blood of Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us all together pray the prayer our Lord has given us to pray.

People: **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.**

### ***The Words of Institution***

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

### ***The Sharing of the Peace***

#### ***The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)***

163

*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.*

(Please be seated until it is your time to commune.)

### ***The Distribution***

We welcome to the Lord's Table all who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God, can examine themselves spiritually and believe they receive the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and as a profession of their faith. If you hold a profession of faith that differs from that of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor before the start of the service before communing.

- We believe the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine.
- We believe Christ offers the forgiveness of sins in the Lord's Supper, but that the Lord's Supper is not necessary for salvation.
- We believe the Lord's Supper remembers the death of Christ and proclaims his death until he returns.
- We believe the Lord's Supper is a statement of unity in the body of Christ; we do not believe it creates that unity.

During the distribution, you are encouraged to sing the Distribution Hymns, pray, or meditate on the words "this is my body... this is my blood, given for you."

The cups at the center of the Individual Communion tray contain diluted wine for those with alcohol sensitivities.

***Distribution Hymns***

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| For Me to Live Is Jesus          | 742 |
| At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 633 |
| Feed thy Children, God Most Holy | 774 |

***Benediction***

People:        Amen

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b><i>The Recessional: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright</i></b> | 395 |
|--|-----|

***Postlude – O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright***

## † *Service Participants* †

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Pastor:         | Rev. Duncan McLellan  |
| Music Director: | Mark Killinger  |
| The Organist:   | Sandra Quinlan  |
| The Elders:     | Mike Sterba & John Gielarowski  |
| The Acolyte:    | Chris Yellig (8:00)<br>Anna Gresh (10:30)   |
| The Greeters:   | Peter & Barbara Fisher (8:00)<br>Steve & Lori Gauger & Megan(10:30)   |
| The Ushers:     | Kathleen Conn, Bill Schrag (8:00)<br>Janet & Larry Zreliak<br>Sam Dragan, Steve Gauger (10:30)<br>Kari & John Gresh |
| Altar Guild:    | Mary Hutula & Elsie DallaPiazza   |
| Nursery:        | Marian Oelschlager & Lara Luedeman  |

### **Last Week in Worship**

Sunday Worship Attendance (1/17) – 225

Wednesday Attendance (1/20) – 20

Sunday Offering (1/17) - \$3,979.00

Online Offering (1/11-1/15) - \$465.00

~Online giving is now available by going to the Zion web site: [www.zlcb.org](http://www.zlcb.org)~

# Week of Jan.24<sup>th</sup> – Jan.31<sup>st</sup>

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><b>1/24</b>    | 8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion<br>9:30 AM – Sunday School & Voters Meeting<br>10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion<br>5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Event : Blow Dart Battle        |
| <b>MONDAY</b><br><b>1/25</b>    |   |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br><b>1/26</b>   | 6:00 PM – Children’s Choir<br>6:30 PM – Sunday School Meeting<br>7:00 PM – Adult Choir  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br><b>1/27</b> | 7:00 PM – Service of Prayer and Preaching & Romans Bible Study  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><b>1/28</b>  | 10:00 AM – Bible Study  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>1/29</b>    |   |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br><b>1/30</b>  |   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b><br><b>1/31</b>    | 8:00 AM – Worship w/Communion<br>9:15 AM – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class<br>10:30 AM – Worship w/Communion & Children’s Church<br>12:00 PM – Stephen Ministry Meeting |



**We want to thank the following artists for participating in the  
January Art Show:**

Irene Bourg, Tess Carter, Elsie Dalla Piazza, Norman Erbrecht, Barbara Fisher, Peter Fisher, Kitt Kroeger, Brent Miller, Marianne Miller, Jim Neill, Kristen Neill, Rita Sheldon, Millie Thielet and Dick Wible.

Participation included active members, homebound members and a memorial.

Special thanks goes to the Events Committee, the Zion Secretaries and the Webmaster, who kept the event moving forward. Thank you to those who hung the show, provided the good food and the pianist for the delightful music at the event.

Thank you to all who came to the art show!

God has truly blessed our members!

If you missed the art show, visit our website to see a slide show of all the art work that was on display.