

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 18, 2026*

*Zoar Church, Tofte, MN*

**Welcome** Visitors - Please fill out the Visitor Card and put it in the giving box in the Narthex

Pastor: *In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

**Congregation: Amen**

Pastor: *The Lord be with you*

**Congregation: And also with you**

### Opening Prayer

### Bell

### Confession and Forgiveness (From Psalm 51 & Romans 7)

Pastor: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;*

**Congregation: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do I keep on doing.** (Silence for prayer and reflection)

P: *Cleanse me and I will be clean;*

**C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 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. Amen**

### Gathering Hymn “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” - CCLI # 106879

**V1** Wonderful, merciful Savior

Precious Redeemer and Friend

Who would have thought that a Lamb could

Rescue the souls of man,

Oh You rescue the souls of man.

**V3** Almighty, infinite Father

Faithfully loving Your own.

Here in our weakness You find us

Falling before Your throne,

Oh we're falling before Your Throne.

**V2** Counselor, Comforter, Keeper

Spirit we long to embrace,

You offered hope when our hearts had

Hopelessly lost our way,

Oh we'd hopelessly lost the way.

**Chorus** You are the One that we praise

You are the One we adore

You give the healing and grace our

Hearts always hunger for,

Oh our hearts always hunger for.

### Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

*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*

**Opening Hymn: "Thy Word"** - CCLI # 14301

**Chorus**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path

**V2** I will not forget

Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end

**V1** When I feel afraid

And I think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near

Please be near me to the end  
(Chorus)  
And a light unto my path  
You're the light unto my path

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 119:105 Proverbs 4:18, Proverbs 6:23, Proverbs 20:27 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life,

The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being.

**Epistle Reading:** Colossians 3:2, James 4:4 (NIV)

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?

Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV)

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**P: The Word of God for the people of God**

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Message:** "Light and Money" - Pastor Al Alexander

**Song** "Read Your Bible and Pray Every Day"

## Apostle's 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 Christian church,  
    the communion of saints,  
    the forgiveness of sins,  
    the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting. Amen

## Closing Hymn: "Seek Ye First" - CCLI # 1352

**V1** Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

**V2** Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

**V3** Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
Seek, and ye shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.  
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

**Ending**  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!  
Allelu, Alleluia!

## Announcements

- January Mission: Bishop Kishore Daroga - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
  - This week - James 1:9-20
- Soup Supper - Wednesdays, serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Leadership Team meeting - 2/1/26 after service
- All Church Sunday - February 8th
- Zoar is looking for
  - A piano player to play for one or preferably two services per month.
  - A Sunday School teacher for one or two Sundays a month
  - Contact Linda at 612 817 8045
- Please pray through the Zoar prayer list every day
- Thanks to those who are praying for our young people. We could still use a couple of more prayers. Contact Pastor Al
- Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread devotional in the Narthex
- To get on the prayer chain - email or call Pastor Al or the church.
- Prayer Requests - Form in seat back; box in Narthex
- Sign up for after church treats
  - Signup Genius on Zoar Facebook page and website
- Puzzle exchange - downstairs in the fellowship hall. Lots of new puzzles!
- Billy Peterson book - See Pastor Al
- Giving: Box in Narthex, online through our webpage or send a check to the church.

## **Sending Hymn: "The Joy of the Lord is My Strength"**

*The joy of the Lord is my strength  
The joy of the Lord is my strength  
The joy of the Lord is my strength*

*He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more  
He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more  
He heals the broken hearted and they cry no more*

*The joy of the Lord is my strength*

*The joy of the Lord is my strength*

*He gives me living water and I thirst no more  
He gives me living water and I thirst no more  
He gives me living water and I thirst no more*

*The joy of the Lord is my strength*

## **Benediction** Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen

## **Sending**

**Pastor Al: Go in peace and serve the Lord.**

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia. Amen**

## **Bell and Dismiss**

**Website: [www.zoarchurch.org](http://www.zoarchurch.org) • Email: [zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com](mailto:zoarchurchtofte@gmail.com) • Church Phone: 218-663-7925  
Al Alexander, Pastor • Music provided this morning by Linda Alexander**

***Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex  
or by clicking the link "Give" on the zoarchurch.org homepage.***