

*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 8, 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** "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.  
Allelu, Alleluia!

**V3** Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, Alleluia!

**V2** Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, Alleluia!

**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:** “Sweet Hour of Prayer” - Family of God # 439

**V1** Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known  
In seasons of distress and grief  
My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

**V2** Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness  
Engage the waiting soul to bless  
And since He bids me seek His face,  
Believe His Word, and trusts His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care,  
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

**Old Testament Readings:** Deuteronomy 4:29, Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

**New Testament Readings:** James 1:5-6, 1 John 5:14-15, Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 7:7-12 (NIV)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

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

***C: Thanks be to God***

**Message:** “Beggars Welcome” - Pastor Al Alexander

## **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: "You Are My All in All" - CCLI # 825356**

**V1** *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.*

**V2** *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!*

**Chorus** *Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!*

## **Announcements**

- February Mission: Wycliffe International - See poster in Narthex
- Community Bible Study
  - Tuesdays at 3:00 pm at Zoar or Zoom (contact lmsalexand@gmail.com)
  - This week: Zoom only; Not at church because Pastor Al has jury duty
  - Continue James 2
- Soup Supper - Every Wednesday serving 5:15-6:00 pm
- Ash Wednesday - 2/18/26
  - Imposition of ashes following Soup Supper
- Zoar is looking for
  - 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
- Sign up to pray for one of our young people
- 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 or email Pastor Al
- 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:** “*My Life Is in You, Lord*”- CCLI # 17315

*My Life is in You, Lord,  
My strength is in You, Lord,  
My hope is in You, Lord, in You, it's in You.*

*I will praise You with all of my life,  
I will praise You with all of my strength;  
With all of my life, with all of my strength,  
All of my hope is in You*

**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

**Bell**

**Sending**

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

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

**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 Marsha Hansen**

***Offerings can be dropped in the labeled box in the narthex  
or by clicking the link “Give” on the [zoarchurch.org](http://zoarchurch.org) homepage.***