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## MISSION STATEMENT

Zion Episcopal Church is a Christian community called to bear witness and celebrate the love of Christ in our parish family and throughout the world.

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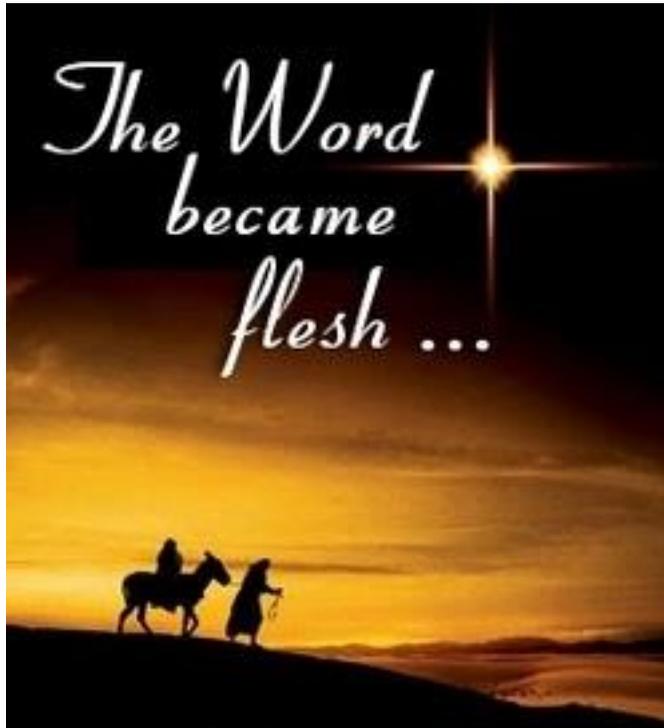
Welcome to historic

Zion Episcopal Church, Rome, New York

- A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York -  
140 West Liberty Street Rome, New York 13440-5750

**Telephone:** 315.336.5170 **Website:** [www.zionrome.org](http://www.zionrome.org)

**Email:** [zionchurch@twcny.rr.com](mailto:zionchurch@twcny.rr.com)



## TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The lunch program still runs from 11:30 – 1pm Mon and Tue for take out only.

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, and the Bishop's Pastoral Directives, Zion will not have in-person worship or gathering until further notice.

We DO celebrate the Holy Eucharist online at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, but no longer via Facebook to allow greater participation. Thanks to the generosity of the Rome Chapter of the NAACP, we will use ZOOM for our on-line, streaming service ... without cost for you to view and without any need to subscribe to any online service. Click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84447872857?pwd=LzIGUFNGbGpJejB6dHl6dXUrYVUrdz09>

Each Sunday's service bulletin will be mailed by Wednesday. The parish office remains open, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Call Annette at church (315-336-5170) or email ([zionchurch@twcny.rr.com](mailto:zionchurch@twcny.rr.com)) by Monday for next week's bulletin. Thanks to Tina Rescigno's efforts, the sermon and bulletin are also on the parish website: [www.zionrome.org](http://www.zionrome.org)

Consecrated wafers for the Holy Eucharist (regular wheat or gluten free) are available for you to take home, six per each sealed plastic bag for pick up from the office. Please call Annette to coordinate a pick up time at the church.

By decision of the Bishop, Zion's essential ministries and services remain active ... such as the Monday and Tuesday take-out lunch program, as well as the meeting site for various community organizations with their own ministries.

We invite your attention to the parish newsletter for more information as the continuing activities and ministries at Zion, notwithstanding our suspension of in-person worship.

Second Sunday after Christmas  
Sunday Jan 3, 2021  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Live Streaming

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All the Baptized People of God may receive the sacrament. *Please stand if comfortably able to do so for all hymns*

**Prelude:**

**Hymn: 102 Once in royal David's city**

– Erick Kroll, organist

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

**S 76** - The Holy Eucharist Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**The Gloria**

*Celebrant and people:*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the**

**Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **The Collect**

BCP 214

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*The People Sit.*

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson – Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*Reader:* The first lesson is a reading from the Book of Jeramiah

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and

declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord  
*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 84**

BCP 707

*Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

[9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the Lord withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O Lord of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!]

## The Second Lesson- **Ephesians 1:3-14**

*Reader:* The Second lesson is a Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches

of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## **The Gospel: John 1:1-18**

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of

a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

*Reverend Dr. James K. Heidt, Rector & Priest*

Second Sunday after Christmas, Year B

January 3, 2021

(John 1: 1 - 18)

In the Name of the Living God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The calendar tells us that, in the Roman Julian year, it is January 3. Happy and Blessed New Year to all. But, it is also still Christmas here....inside our church and inside our hearts.

We see it around us in subtle ways. As with last Sunday, the First Sunday after Christmas, we are still singing the old familiar Christmas carols that most of the world stopped hearing days ago. The nave is still decorated with the greens of the season. The altar still celebrates this special, glorious time with our festival white vestments. And our liturgy still continues with all of those unique, little remembrances of collect, and prayer, and response....all of it, all prolonging the joyous celebration of the Christ Mass with the company of Angels, and Archangels, and all the company of heaven!

But, I ask you rhetorically, "What, in today's gospel reading from St. John the Evangelist, makes the same glorious reference to the Christmas story?"

You may notice that we always focus on the gospel reading for the sermon..because, frankly, as ordained clergy, we are duty bound to preach the Gospel. Of course, culturally...in the world outside of these doors...there seems to be a clear anomaly with the focus of our gospel focus today.

As I stated earlier: we go to great lengths to contradict the modern-day image that Christmas is a "25th and out" event. How could you think any differently in today's world? It is all around us outside. The used boxes and bows and wrapping are all in the trash. The trees either come down and go into storage or out on the curb starting the next day. We get blitzed on television or in the newspaper about "After Christmas Sales". Go to Wal-Mart to stock up on Christmas cards for next year, and you will find the shelves

picked as clean as a turkey carcass. The world cannot wait to move its materialistic frenzy onto the next marketing “big thing”. What is that? Valentine’s Day? Spoiler here...I was in Walmart the other day and yes...the Valentine’s Day chocolate boxes are out in force!!

Yet, in the great effort of the church to get us to slow down...to keep us HERE...in the eternal and sacramental celebration of the Christ Mass...of God coming to be with us...we center on the very first words, the opening lines, of the Gospel according to John. And we wonder what is the connection with this season.

John’s gospel has no nativity story, no animals in the barn, no shepherds and angels. Instead, it presents us with this hymn. A hymn to Christ. It is a love song, full of increasing light, celebrating the relationship between God and God’s only child, and then extending that intimate relationship to embrace all humankind. These are powerful words that speak to us about the one who comes to us in power to make all things new for us....we who, without him, are the exiles, the inhabitants of darkness.

Who is this Jesus, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us?

If we see only the baby lying in the manger, we only see part of the picture. Just as we did not celebrate Advent by pretending that Christ has not come, so we do not celebrate Christmas by pretending we do not know what is going to happen to this child.

Christmas does not stand alone. It cannot be celebrated properly in isolation from the whole story of Jesus as the Christ. To separate the story of his birth from the harsh reality of his crucifixion is to be in denial. The whole story of him, from beginning to end, reminds us that we must also see Jesus as the one who is not received.

The very people who hoped, finally got the one for whom they hoped....but they did not recognize him and so rejected him. We really do not understand the nature of God, and it causes so much denial. Instead of some Marvel comics superhero, God comes to us as one who is weak and vulnerable, not just as the holy infant but also as the adult hanging on the cross. Yet Jesus, the weak, flesh-and-bone one, has real power. Of course, not the power of the world. Not the power to make things right or prosperous. That is why it continues to be rejected by the world. His power is to let us be, to encourage us to be, indeed even level the way to allow us to be who we are created to be...the very children of God.

The coming of Jesus presents us with a choice. We can be transformed to be the people of God, walking in the vulnerable ways of God....of peace within, and of love for all. Or, we can reject him and continue business as usual...sitting in the darkness, shielding our eyes, turning away from the life-giving light. The story today is one of transforming hope for a new life. We are invited to cooperate with the divine initiative, to let the light enable us to see the path more clearly, to make a new beginning as the people of God. When that happens, heaven and earth do sing. There is joy to the world.

The church gives us not one day, but twelve, to celebrate the birth of Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Join with me in taking that time. Do not be overwhelmed or tired by the cultural rush to move on.

In repeating the close of last Sunday's sermon, we will continue to take the time God blesses us with, to look for ways to be transformed by God for God. To walk those vulnerable pathways of God, but in the company and love and support of each other. To persevere in hope and joy...not to be abandoned like Christmas trees discarded right after Christmas Day. For the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, so that we might see his glory and come into the loving presence of God, full of grace and truth revealed to us as the name of the Father, and as the Son and as the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

*Celebrant and people:*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

## **The Prayers of the People in the Season of Christmas**

**Leader:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord Father, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** There was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, all who live in poverty, and all throughout the world who only know want. Holy God,

**People:** *Hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand those on our prayer list, **namely [...],**

Bernadette	Ann Northup	Susan Bogart
Patricia	Joann Bienvenue	Catherine Zbiegien
Joyce	Ginny Telego	Georgeanna Howanietz
Blaze	Lorelie Rice	Randy Jones Sr.
Lance	Michael Potter	Janice McNaughton
J. Daniel	Siegmund Urbanek	Jim & Pat Hoffman
Jill	David Dutcher	Sharon Dyball
Charles O'Neill	Janet Renzi	Anne Staple
John & Linda Hunter	Rachel Dyball	Bea Golden
The Seymour Family	Helen Seamen	Charlotte Rice
Brett McDonell	Cindy DeProspero-Outwater	Erica Young & Baby
Pasquale Mesagna	Kevin & Alice Wilson	Sharon Parsons
Georgia Northup	Bill McGee	Karen Chapman
Richard Stratton	Brenda Outwater	Al & Krissy Rozanski
Lois Wiggins	Wayne Towne	Willis Bienvenue
Zachary Thomason	Lauren Ziegler	Jim Perry
Joan Moore	James Ziegler	The Nobiling Family
The Gambier Family	The McDonough Family	
Shirley Reali		
AnnMarie Bronson Hunter		

as well as those unnamed who are known to you alone in pain or distress.  
Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death **especially, [...],**

Elizabeth Szalach (sister in-law of Georgia Northup)

in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,

*People: **Hear our prayer.***

**Leader:** Father, angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*People: Amen.*

**Leader:** Eternal God, within the Anglican Cycle of prayer today, we pray for the Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria, and their bishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis; and in the Episcopal Church, we pray for the people of the Diocese of East Carolina, and their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving.

For our companion Diocese El Salvador, we pray for the people of La Divina Providencia, El Maizal, Sonsonate, and their priest, The Rev. Juan Pablo Alvarado.

And in our own Diocese of Central New York, we continue to pray for all essential workers, first responders, and health care professionals. We also pray for the people of Grace Episcopal Church, Syracuse, as well as for the people of Zion Episcopal Church, Greene, and their priest, The Very Rev. David Hanselman.

We pray for all who are impacted, here and abroad, directly or indirectly, by the coronavirus pandemic, and we especially pray for our families, our friends, and our loved ones, our communities and our church.

## **Confession of Sin**

BCP 360

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen**

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## Announcements

Hymn: 109 The first Nowell

– Erick Kroll, organist

# The Holy Communion

## The Invitation

*ALL persons, baptized at any place and of any age, are encouraged and welcomed to receive and share in the communion of Christ's sacramental Body in the form of Bread from God's holy table in this place.*

*The Bread will be available in individual, safely packaged parcels for each communicant to take upon entry into the sanctuary. Please take the Bread with you to your pew and wait for the invitation and consecration before you consume. We also have **gluten-free** Bread available as marked for you to take.*

*The Celebrant will review the above in addition to offering the Words of Invitation prior to the celebration.*

## The Offertory

*Celebrant and People together:*

All things come of thee, O Lord; and of thine own, have we given thee. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer A** BCP 361

Celebrant - The Lord be with you.

**People - And also with you.**

Celebrant - Lift up your hearts.

**People - We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People - It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant - It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS** *(Celebrant and People saying together)*

S-125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full, of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant continues:*

Holy and gracious Father; In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your

mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant continues:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body of your Son, the holy food of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive the holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and fore ever. **AMEN**

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## The Lord's Prayer

(Kneel or stand)

BCP 364

**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, for ever and ever. Amen**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast; Alleluia**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Post-Communion Prayer (Kneel or stand)

BCP 365

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of you Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## The Blessing

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude – God Be With You**

– (recorded)

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 Reverend Dr. James K. Heidt, Rector & Priest  
 Erick Kroll, Organist and Music Director  
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**ZION EPISCOPAL CHURCH – January 3- March 28 2021**  
 ACOLYTE SCHEDULE, CHALICE SCHEDULE, LAY READER SCHEDULE

January 3	9AM	Tina Rescigno	CHALICE & 2 <sup>ND</sup> LESSON
		Mike Rescigno	1 <sup>ST</sup> LESSON & PSALM
		Tina Rescigno	ACOLYTE
January 10	9AM	Sandie Latimer	CHALICE & 2 <sup>ND</sup> LESSON
		Meribeth Seaman	1 <sup>ST</sup> LESSON & PSALM
		Sandie Latimer	ACOLYTE