

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

#### Isaiah 40:21-31 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, When he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

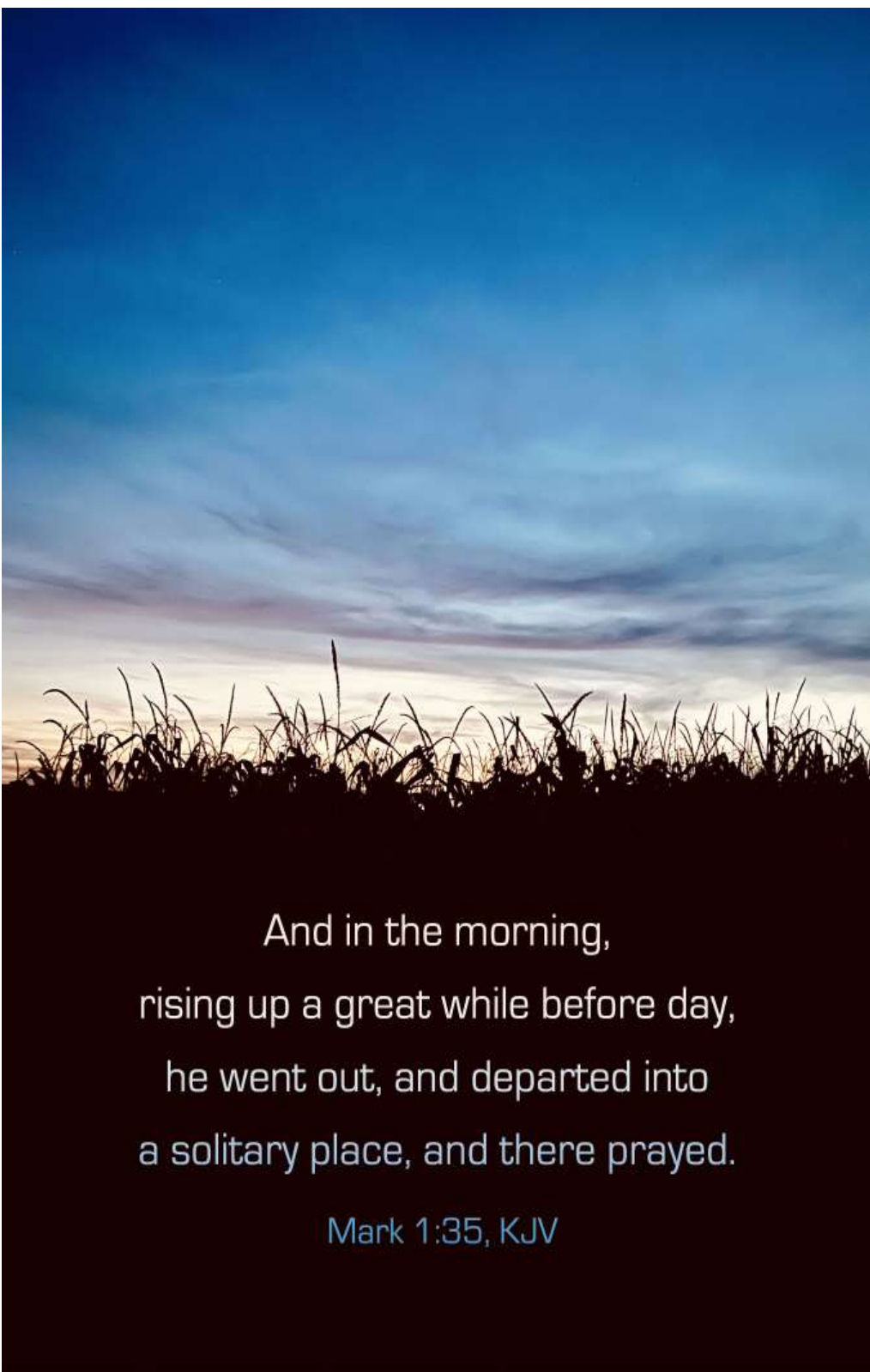
#### 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup> For if I do this of my own will, I have a Reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup> What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. <sup>19</sup> For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of

them. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup> To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. <sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

#### Mark 1:29-39 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup> And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup> That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup> And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.



And in the morning,  
rising up a great while before day,  
he went out, and departed into  
a solitary place, and there prayed.

Mark 1:35, KJV

**February 4, 2024**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**

17927 Dice Road, Hemlock, MI 48626 ~ Church Office 642-5909

✠ **In the Name of Jesus** ✠

**As We Gather** ~ *The Son of God, Christ Jesus, Makes Us a New Creation.* The Lord alone *"is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth"* (Is. 40:28). He *"sits above the circle of the earth"* and *"stretches out the heavens like a curtain"* (Is. 40:22). Yet His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. *"He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength"* (Is. 40:29). The only begotten Son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His body to the cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals *"many who were sick with various diseases,"* and He casts out *"many demons"* (Mark 1:34, 39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are *"entrusted with a stewardship"* to *"preach the gospel"* (1 Cor. 9:16–17). Thus, we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.

ORDER OF WORSHIP Divine Service Setting Three	184
OPENING HYMN "O Blessed, Holy Trinity"	876
SERMON HYMN "Fight the Good Fight"	664
SERMON "Time to be Busy"	Mark 1:29-39
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"	623
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"	790
CLOSING HYMN "Thy Strong Word"	578

<b>Pastor</b>	Larry Warsinski
<b>Organist</b>	Tami Mosher
<b>Elders</b>	Paul Bohn and Dale Rohde
<b>A/V</b>	Mark Richardson
<b>Ushers</b>	Dick Bluemer and Bruce Tessin
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Suzanne Schultz and Diane Schultz

**Our Measure of Love and Gifts**

**Attendance last week** – 68 ~ *Needed for The Lord's Work at Zion* \$3,934 ~ *Received for the Lord's Work* \$1856; Capital Projects \$85; God's Helping Hands \$480.

**Please pray for your fellow Christians on their birthday:**  
February 4- Elizabeth Carroll, Dick Neuenfeldt (his 87<sup>th</sup>), February 6- Jonathan Schuler, Jackie Yell, February 8 - Sally Wietfeldt; February 10 – Leon Zastrow.

**Today's Memory Verse** ~ "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** for 2023 will expire March 31, 2024. Direct your dollars by phone (1-800-847-4836) or online at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and follow the prompts. You will need your Thrivent membership number and S.S. number. Any undesignated funds will remain with the company. In 2023 \$791 was directed to the Capital Projects Fund from Thrivent Choice \$\$.

**Valley Lutheran High School** in Saginaw is looking to fill two full-time faculty positions beginning July 31, 2024. The first is for Social Studies (U.S. History and Economics) and the second is for English (with a focus on writing and research). The ideal candidate would have an LTD and a secondary teaching certificate in the appropriate subject area. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Dr. Lisa Meyers by mail (3560 McCarty Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603) or email ([lmeyers@vlhs.com](mailto:lmeyers@vlhs.com)). Interviews are anticipated to begin by the end of February and continue until the position is filled.

**VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction! Our Theme is " Monopoly" This year's annual auction is set for Saturday, February 24, 2024, at The DoubleTree in Bay City.** Your support has impacted Valley Lutheran with improvements in programs, equipment, transportation, physical school improvements, and most importantly STUDENT AID. Thank you for your past support of VLHS! We could use your help again - we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, gift cards, etc.). There are also opportunities to participate by way of prayer, advertising, sponsorship, or attending the auction. Click on our auction link [www.vlhsauction.com](http://www.vlhsauction.com) for more information and check out our often-updated list of items. For further information contact Valley Lutheran at 989-790-1676, Beth (Lambert) Kaul 989-754-5918 [bkaul@vlhs.com](mailto:bkaul@vlhs.com).