

## 10th Sunday After Pentecost, August 17, 2025 10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Cheryl Leef

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson

Ushers: T. M. Garner & Terri Watson

Communion: Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder

**Worship:** In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

**Communion:** We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

**Fellowship:** Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

**Other Information:** Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary; our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: [zionsluth@gmail.com](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com). Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at [zionsluth.org](http://zionsluth.org).



**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

***Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.***

~Gathering~

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

The One who commands the clouds calls us to be poured out for others.

**We can, by faith, be the waters of peace which quench the fires of hatred.**

The One who creates mercy and hope, longs for a world of fair play and grace.

**We can, by faith, let righteousness and justice be our constant companions.**

The One who is with us in every moment composes a love-song for our hearts.

**We can, by faith, teach this song to everyone we meet.**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Creator God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

**Gathering Hymn:** #876 *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Kyrie**

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Glorious God, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses, the multitude of the faithful of all ages, who surround us. Considering their example, and looking to Jesus, may we run the race of life faithfully. Encourage us, that we may not grow weary or fainthearted. Help us accept your gentle discipline, through the grace of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

~Word~

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading:** Jeremiah 23:23-29

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God nearby, says the Lord, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal.

<sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 82

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup>**"How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup>**rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup>**Now I say to you, 'You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.'"

<sup>8</sup>**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:29—12:2

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the power of fire, escaped the

edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

<sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

<sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### **Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

The holy gospel according to Luke chapter 12.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

<sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,  
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** Pastor Lisa Rygiel

**Hymn of the Day:** #635 We Walk by Faith

### **The New Creed**

**We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries including Wal-Reat with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution and the threats of wildfire. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound we especially pray for...Reassure them of your care in all times and places.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation, especially our church council. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always!

**And, also with you.**

~Meal~

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering**

*An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:*

*[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741)*

**Offertory:** #686 We Give Thee But Thine Own, vs. 1-2

### **Offering Prayer**

As you have done with us, may we do for others, holding nothing back, but offering our treasures and lives that hope may be restored, that healing might touch the broken, that the suffering might be revived, and that all might know of your steadfast love in their lives. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Creator God be with you. **And also, with you.**

Prepare your hearts. **We prepare our hearts for God's bounty.**

Let us give thanks to the God of chosen family. **For this community, we give thanks.**

Holy One we give you thanks joyfully for the many ways you have blessed us. For the blessing of intersectionality, for blessings of belonging, for blessings of renewed and new names, for blessings of embodiment, for blessing of movement, for blessings of stillness, for blessings of love, for blessings of joy, we give you thanks and praise for the unexpected ways you arrive to each of us. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.*

*Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.*

*God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.*

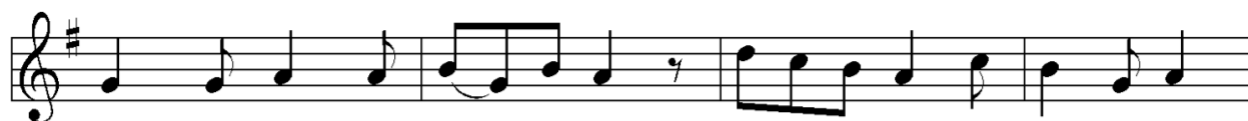
*Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation, openness to God's word, and to listen for the voice of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

**Communion Hymn: #491 Come Let Us Eat**

**Communion Hymn: #471 Let Us Break Bread Together**



## **Song of Thanksgiving**



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## **Communion Prayer**

**May we who have fed at Wisdom's table take her welcome out to where tables are reserved and doors are closed. May the Spirit drive us to break our bread on the altar of the world. Amen.**

*~Sending~*

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **Announcements & Special Blessings**

### **Benediction**

Children of God, ☩ go now in the presence of the great cloud of witnesses and in the blessing of God who forms us for community. May you find in God and one another the joy to persevere as we follow after Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, as we seek God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** #597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace and hope, knowing you are not alone. **Thanks be to God.**

## ~Announcements~

- **Fellowship:** Join us after worship for coffee and conversation.
- **Church Council:** The Zion's church council will meet after worship on Sunday, Aug. 17, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
- **Newsletter Deadline:** The deadline for contributions to our September newsletter is Thursday, Aug. 21. If you have an article, idea, or photo to share, please let Jo Moss know.
- **God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Service Project:** Zion's Lutheran's GWOH service project will include building a wheelchair ramp for a local family. If you can help with this project, let John Rygiel know. An exact time and date for the project still is being set with the family. We are also planning an alternate activity for those who may not have woodworking skills. Details will follow.
- **God's Work Our Hands Worship:** We will have our traditional outdoors GWOH worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, at Round Up Park (near the fairgrounds). A potluck picnic also at the park will immediately follow worship, so bring your favorite picnic food and join the fellowship and fun.
- **5-Loaves Reminder:** There are five Saturdays in August, so remember that 5-Loaves deliveries are always the *last* Saturday of the month, which means we will deliver meals on Aug. 30.

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Call to Worship:

Prayer of the Day: *Written by Ruth C. Duck, Flames of the Spirit: Resources for Worship, ed. Ruth C. Duck (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2009), 50.*

Creed: A New Creed The United Church of Canada (1968; rev. 1980, 1995) -- Copyright © 2025 -- Charitable ID 10810-2435-RR0003.

Gathering & Offering Prayer: by Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies. Posted at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> © Thom M. Shuman, used with permission.

Benediction: *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2025* and published at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/dear-children-of-god-dear-beloved-children/tenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/tenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-liturgical-resources>.

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Eucharist Prayer: From the *Reconciling in Christ Sunday 2018: Dreams & Visions of the Church Re- Imagined* Service, originally written by Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*.