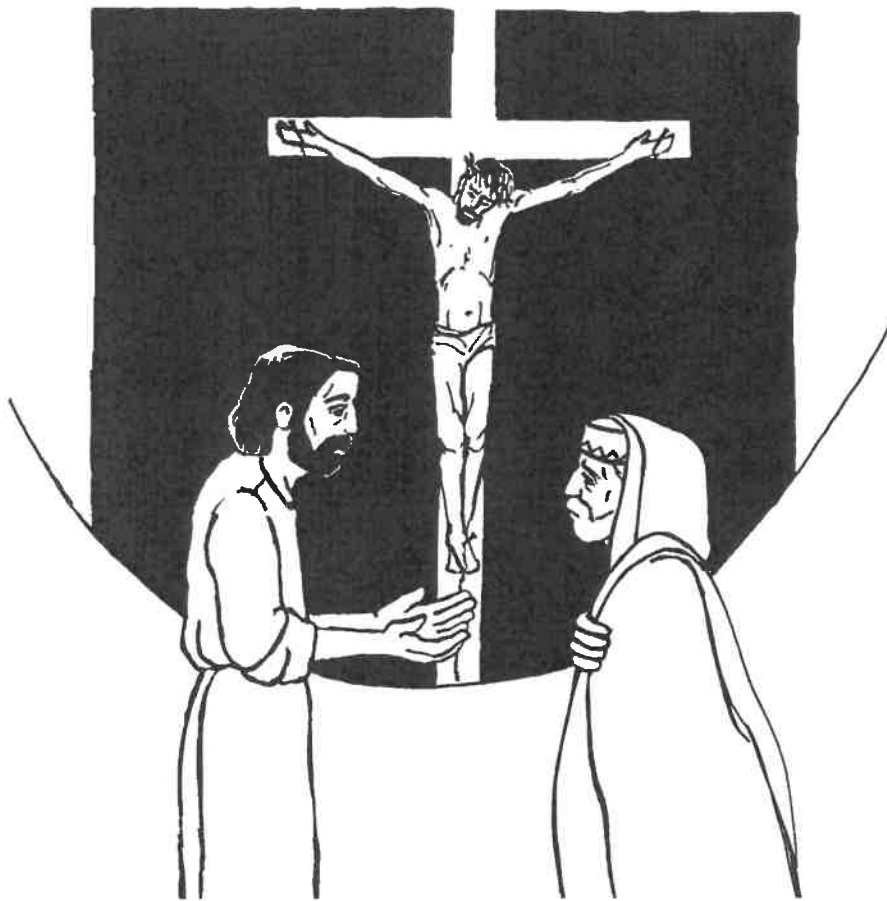


ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
Thief River Falls, MN  
**THE HOLY TRINITY**  
May 30, 2021



And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, So must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. John 3:14-15

## **PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**      “Come Thee Almighty King”                      ELW # 408

### **\*GREETING** (p. 203)

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

**And also with you.**

### **\*KYRIE** (p. 203)

*Congregation:* Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

*(\*Please stand as you are able)*

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 204)

*Congregation:* Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

<sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” *The word of the Lord... Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM: Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned asking forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

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

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 205)**

*Congregation:* Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## **\*GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

**P:** The Holy Gospel...

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You

must be born from above.’<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

SECRET ADMIRER

Pastor Ale Tulu

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” ELW # 597

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **Hear our prayer.**

**\*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.

**OFFERING** *Plates are available at the entrance and exit for your contributions.*

**\*SENDING SONG** “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW #335

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**WELCOME!** ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD SAYS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING AND MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

**OUR THANKS** TO TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Musician:* Phyllis Dalager

*Ushers:* Dick Haugen, Van Swanson

*Acolyte:* Sienna Gregerson

*Worship assistant:* Millie Reiersen

*Reader:* Glenice Johnson

*Tech assist:* Megan Brevik

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**TODAY WE WELCOME THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:** (Silver Creek)



Harrison Michael Spiten and Leif Martin Spiten, sons of Jacob & Danielle Spiten  
Their sponsors are Ashley Seeger and Brady Meunier.

**OUR SYMPATHY TO:** Lyle Walseth family on the death of his sister, Karen Hruby.

**BROADCASTS** today are in memory of Gary Lofberg, Roman & Marie Didier, Art & Eileen Lofberg, sponsored by MaryAnn Lofberg.

**ZION'S WEBSITE** for May is sponsored by Chris & Nicky Ellison & family in memory of Joe & Ginny Armstrong.

**REMINDER to those hospitalized** to please notify Zion as the hospital does not inform us.

**ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE** Sunday mornings you can listen to the 8:30AM service online. Go to: [www.ziontrf.org](http://www.ziontrf.org). in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - K thru 5, August 2nd—5th. From 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Bring your own lunch for 5:00—5:30 outdoor picnic. Registration will be on Redeemer's website. Cost is \$20 per child with a max of \$40 per family. Scholarships available. Contact Madison for more information.

**\*\*WORSHIP TIME CHANGE\*\***

**Beginning NEXT Sunday, June 6th**

**Zion worship/ Broadcasts will be 9:00 AM**

**Silver Creek worship will be 10:30 AM**

**Wednesday Worship at Zion begins June 9th with Supper at 5:30 and Worship at 6:15.**

**STEWARDSHIP** (Envelopes/Vanco Electronic Giving/Silver Creek included in all totals)

May 17-23: income: \$8,146.

May 1-23 income: \$27,823.

Year to Date income Jan 1– May 23: \$131,957.

2021 budget \$353,032. / \$6,789. is needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

Contributions may be made by scanning the **QR code** provided. This is processed by Vanco Services.

The credit/debit card kiosk is available in the narthex for contributions also.



**Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®** Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars directions can make a profound impact.

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Sunday, May 30:**

8:30 Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10:00 Worship at Silver Creek/ Baptisms

**Monday, May 31:** Memorial Day—Church is closed

**Tuesday, June 1:**

9:30 Staff meeting

10:30 Coffee with Staff

12 noon Pastors Text Study

4 Parish Health Committee

Board Meetings

No Worship Board tonight—next meeting, July 6

**Thursday, June 3:**

1 Quilting

**Friday, June 4:**

7AM Men's Breakfast at Biff's

9:30 Coffee with Staff

Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday, June 5:**

Wedding of Alex Thibert & Morgan Lee

**Sunday, June 6:**

8:30 Holy Communion Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10:00 Worship at Silver Creek

6:30 Call Committee meeting at Zion

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*Ministers:* Every Member of the Congregation

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Madison Crane, *Youth & Family Ministries* 608-535-9151, [rzyouthfam@gmail.com](mailto:rzyouthfam@gmail.com); Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse*

⇒ An Onsite Defibrillator (AED) for use on someone with Sudden Cardiac Arrest is located in the elevator

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**May 30, 2021**

### **THE HOLY TRINITY**

#### **Bring Your Questions**

Although Nicodemus comes to Jesus claiming to know that Jesus comes from God, it is clear from the remainder of the conversation that he has deep questions on his heart. And after all of Jesus' talk of being born of water and Spirit Nicodemus almost pleads: "How can these things be?" (John 3:9).

What questions do you bring to worship with you today?

As we gather around the baptismal font, we do so with Luther's reminder that "daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1165). We too might ask, "How can these things be?" Does today feel like a new day of righteousness and purity? Does today feel any different than yesterday or the day before? Sometimes the answer is yes, but often it does not seem there is anything "new" about any given day.

Throughout the gospels we hear about people's responses to their encounters with Jesus. They go away healed and rejoicing, grieving or angry. We get no such exit with Nicodemus. Jesus speaks about God's love for the world and is soon on the move again. What happened to Nicodemus? He will reappear in the seventh chapter of John, defending Jesus as the leaders wonder why Jesus has not been arrested, and in the nineteenth chapter to help lay Jesus in the tomb. In both cases today's encounter with Jesus is remembered. It seems that Nicodemus's questions and his struggle to understand are the beginning of a slow reshaping of his life.

Bring your questions to the water today. Bring your questions again and again. Dip your hands in the water; mark yourself with the cross; know that the water and the Spirit will reshape you in ways you may not understand today but will certainly remember in later chapters of life.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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