

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Thief River Falls, MN
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
May 9, 2021



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

**PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS
TEMPLE TALK
CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tim Numedahl
Megan Peterson

***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** "I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW #661

***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.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." *The word of our Lord...* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, | all you peoples;
shout to God with a | joyful sound.

²**For the LORD Most High is | to be feared:
a great king over | all the earth,**

³who subdues the | peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, | whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up | with a shout,
the LORD with the sound | of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to | God, sing praises;
sing praises to our | king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of | all the earth;
sing praises | with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the | God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of our 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: Luke 24:44-53**

P: The Holy Gospel...

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

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON Pastor Ale Tulu

HYMN OF THE DAY “We All Are One in Mission”

ELW # 576

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

ELW page 227

Baptism of Axel Wesley Terry Huttleston, son of Joshua & Chelsey Huttleston
Axel’s sponsors are Matthew Lake and Victoria Carreon.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **Your mercy is great.**

***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**

“Here I Am, Lord”

ELW #574

***BLESSING** Response: **Amen.**

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: Laura Rude
Ushers: Jim & Deb Fulton
Acolyte: Gracie Anderson

Worship assistant: Millie Reierson
Reader: Shawna Spears
Tech assist: Jersey Smeby

TODAY WE WELCOME THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: (8:30)



Axel Wesley Terry Huttleston, son of Joshua & Chelsey Huttleston.
His sponsors are Matthew Lake and Victoria Carreon

OUR PRAYERS TO Shari Larson recovering at home; Roberta Kalsnes at Sanford, Fargo; also, Harvey Hanson recovering at home.

BROADCASTS today are in memory of Jeanette Reierson on the anniversary of her 100th birthday sponsored by Millie Reierson

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, in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

FALLS DELIVERED MEALS Thank you to those who volunteered to deliver meals this week.

ZION QUILTERS will meet Thursday May 20 at 1 PM. Anyone interested in helping with this project is welcome to come.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY will be held virtually thru Zoom on May 22nd from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. If you would like to be a delegate from Zion, please contact the church office. Discounted registration ends May 10th. Final day to register is May 18th. A large screen will be available at Redeemer for delegates to watch the assembly. You would still need your own device with email access for voting.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS Sign-up sheets on Madison's office door to Acolyte, Read, or Tech Crew for Sunday worship and receive credit.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY is May 23rd. Seniors-please email Madison a senior picture, future plans, and a favorite bible verse by May 18th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Seeking volunteers to help put on our own VBS this summer. If you are interested please contact Madison. Call/Text 608-535-9151 A planning meeting will be held May 25th, 6PM at Redeemer.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Sunday School Superintendents, Becky Fredrickson and Davina Brown for all the work they put into the virtual Sunday School program this past year. Many Thanks to ALL who provided the weekly video lessons for our students.

****WORSHIP TIME CHANGE****

Beginning 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)

April 26-May 2 income: \$8,401.

April 1-30 income: \$25,761.

Year to Date income Jan 1– April 30: \$111,313.

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 9: 8:30 Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

9:30 Last Day - Sunday School posted online

9:30 6/7th Grade Devotions in Youth Room

10:00 Worship at Silver Creek

Monday, May 10: Parish Nurse by appt.

Falls Delivered Meals delivery week for Zion

Tuesday, May 11:

9:30 Staff meeting

10:30 Pastors Text Study

5:15 Christian Ed & Youth Board meets

Wednesday, May 12:

10 Greenleaf service

6:00 Confirmation Classes

7:00 Senior Choir

Friday, May 14: 7AM Men's Breakfast at Biff's

9:30 Coffee with Staff

Sunday, May 16: 8:30 Holy Communion Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;

10:00 Holy Communion Worship at Silver Creek; SC Council following worship

6:30 Zion Call committee meeting

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

Office Phone: 681-3296 *Fax:* 681-3048

Alemayehu Tulu, *Associate Pastor* 681-1866 alezion@mncable.net

Linda Hamrick, *Office Manager* ziontrf@mncable.net; Tiffany Sterry & David Lee, *Custodial*

Madison Crane, *Youth & Family Ministries* 608-535-9151, rzyouthfam@gmail.com; Sandy Knutson, *Parish Nurse*

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

⇒ The Elevator is currently not working

GOSPEL MESSAGE

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Our Turn

That Jesus ascended into heaven after his resurrection is a fundamental Christian belief—so much so that we include it in our creeds. The response of his disciples to this extraordinary action was not one of shock, nor of dismay that he had again been taken from them. Instead, the disciples returned “to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God” (Luke 24:52-53).

The gospels tell us that for three years Jesus’ disciples misunderstood his parables, misinterpreted his actions, and just plain missed the point of his public ministry. In a transformative moment just before his ascension, however, Jesus “opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (Luke 24:45). It might have been the most significant “light-bulb moment” in history. Over and over, Jesus had tried to convey his purpose to his disciples; now all became clear to them. Exhilarating as this enlightenment must have been, it also came with profound responsibilities. Since Jesus’ time on earth was over, it was now the disciples’ time. With Jesus no longer physically present to preach and to teach, to perform miracles, to heal, and to show compassion, all these responsibilities fell to those who followed him.

And yet this overwhelming task now seemed manageable to these once-bumbling disciples because Jesus provided them with the understanding they needed. That understanding is available to each of us as well. Baptized into the body of Christ, we have all that we need to proclaim Jesus’ message. No wonder the disciples were joyous as they returned to Jerusalem. We can be, too. As spiritual descendants of those first students, we have the extraordinary privilege of showing and telling the world about the invitation of the Son of God. Whenever we look on another person with love and compassion, seeing Christ in them, we are proclaiming the great good news of perfect and unconditional love. What a gift we have been given, that Jesus has entrusted us with his message to share.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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