

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Thief River Falls, MN

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021 9:00 AM



PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

GATHERING SONG

“Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

ELW #561

*GREETING (p. 184)

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. 184) “*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way...*”

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185) “**Glory to God in the highest...**”

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. *The word of the Lord... Thanks be to God.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Madison Crane

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (p. 188) *"Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go..."*

***GOSPEL: Luke 19:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel... **C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON FINALLY GOODBYE Pastor Ale Tulu

HYMN OF THE DAY "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" ELW #774

APOSTLES' CREED "I Believe I Do Believe"

I be- lieve I do be- lieve tru- ly I be- lieve it tru- ly I be- lieve it tru- ly I be- lieve it.

I be- lieve I do be- lieve tru- ly I be- lieve it tru- ly I be- lieve it tru- ly I be- lieve it.

1. I be- lieve in God the Al- migh- ty Lord Cre- a- tor, Migh-
2. I be- lieve in Je- sus the Sa- vior of the peo- ple, Sa-
3. And I do be- lieve in the pow- er of the Spir- it, Pow-

ty Lord Cre- a- tor, Migh- ty Lord Cre- a- tor. I be- lieve in God the Al- migh-
vior of the peo- ple, Sa- vior of the peo- ple. I be- lieve in Je- sus the Sa-
er of the Spir- it, Pow- er of the Spir- it. And I do be- lieve in the pow-

ty Lord Cre- a- tor, Migh- ty Lord Cre- a- tor, Migh- ty Lord Cre- a- tor.
vior of the peo- ple, Sa- vior of the peo- ple, Sa- vior of the peo- ple.
er of the Spir- it, Pow- er of the Spir- it, Pow- er of the Spir- it.

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***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Congregational response: **hear our prayer.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** (p. 208)

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.

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

***SENDING SONG** “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striving cease.
My comforter my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scored by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by Darkness slain.
Then busting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He Rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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***DISMISSAL** Response: **Thanks be to God.**



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

Worship assistant: Shawna Spears

Reader: Glenice Johnson

THE FLOWERS at the front of the church are to say a big "Thank You" to Pastor Ale & Sunny and their family for all the wonderful years they have been a part of our church family.

FAREWELL FOR PASTOR ALE - TODAY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 22nd.

Zion Potluck at 5:00 PM with a short program to follow.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored by Zion memorials

ZION'S WEBSITE for August is sponsored by David & Karen Kirkeby in memory of Cody Lundgren.

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 9:00AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

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

Aug 9-15 income: \$6,081.

August 1-15 income: \$9,737,

Year to Date income Jan 1– Aug 15: \$197,392.

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.

Credit/debit card kiosk is available in the narthex for contributions.



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.

LAY READERS : Lay readers are needed for Sunday services. If you are interested, please call the church office at 681-3296 or Carol Narverud at 681-4805. We'd love to have you.

LSS CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP will meet on Thursday, September 9th from 10-11:00 AM at Zion. All caregivers are welcome, you do not need to register. Please spread the word to those who can benefit from this group.

WELCA EVENTS - Conference 2 Fall Gathering Saturday, Sept. 11 - Grace Lutheran Church, Grygla, MN. Registration at 8:30, program at 9:00. Speaker: Connie Moe on "Adoptive Children from Korea", Registration fee: \$10. Car pooling from Zion parking lot at 7:45 a.m.

Synod Annual WELCA Convention - Sept. 17-18, Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Moorhead, MN. Registration as soon as possible.

Questions? Call Glenice, 681-4472

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS to begin activities in September. If you can help, please contact the church office.

GOD'S CREATION WALL CALENDARS FOR 2022 - if you would like to pre-order a large number of these calendars, please call the church office. A limited number of calendars will be available at \$8.00 each.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, Aug.22:

9:00 Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;
10:00 Coffee fellowship
10:30 Worship at Silver Creek followed by potluck
12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37
5:00 Zion Potluck - Farewell for Pr Ale

Monday, Aug. 23:

Parish Nurse by Appt

Tuesday, Aug. 24:

9:30 Staff meeting
10:30 Coffee with Staff
12 noon Pastors Text Study

Friday, Aug.27:

7 Men's Breakfast at Biffs
9:30 Coffee with Staff
Wedding rehearsal

Saturday, Aug. 28:

Bailey Pittman & Eli Olson wedding at Zion

Sunday, Aug.29:

9:00 Worship at Zion; Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF;
10:00 Coffee fellowship
10:30 Worship at Silver Creek followed by potluck
12:00 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

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.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

August 22, 2021

LECTIONARY 21

To Whom Can We Go?

The disciples following Jesus knew that he often had some rather unusual things to say about himself and about God, but in today's gospel, they feel that their teacher has gone too far: "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them," Jesus proclaims (John 6:56). For Jesus' Jewish contemporaries, for whom consuming blood of any type was forbidden and who killed animals according to strict religious regulations, this statement was nothing short of sacrilegious. For everyone else, it was just ridiculous. "Whoever eats me will live because of me" (John 6:57). Say what? The scandal caused large numbers of Jesus' disciples to leave; after all, what sort of person would say such a thing?

Like the early disciples, we can find following Jesus baffling and difficult. Love our neighbors when they are so unlovable? Take sabbath rest when there's work to be done? Trust that this Jesus fellow really is God-become-human and was crucified, died, and *raised back to life*? When the culture tells us to speak our own truth, eat fewer carbs, build up our bank accounts, exercise more, buy a better day planner or a new car or more expensive laundry detergent, and lean into our own potential to optimize our lives, it can be tempting to take hold of the latest self-help gospel. It's so concrete. Trusting God instead of ourselves? How scandalous, how ridiculous. "I've got this," we prefer to say.

But hear Jesus' words in this week's gospel: "It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless" (John 6:63). This is not a condemnation; it is a promise that the one who meets us at the table in bread, wine, flesh, and blood also sends his Spirit to give you life. May you hear that promise today and let the Holy Spirit draw from your lips the same confession as Peter: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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