

Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM
Thief River Falls, MN
Season of Pentecost - Holy Communion
July 16, 2023



PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

***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** "Praise and Thanksgiving" ELW # 689

Liturgy setting 10; page 203

***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.

***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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, Word of Life... Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13

¹You are to be praised, O ¹God, in Zion;
to you shall vows ¹be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one ¹who answers prayer,
to you all ¹flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out ¹our transgressions.

**⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of ¹our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans ¹far away.

**⁶You make firm the mountains ¹by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

**⁷You still the roaring ¹of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor ¹of the peoples.**

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to ¹sing for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is ¹full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide ¹for the earth.

**¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth ¹out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and ¹bless its increase.**

**¹¹You crown the year ¹with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

**¹²May the fields of the wilderness be ¹rich for grazing,
and the hills be ¹clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for ¹joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life... Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW # 512**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

P: The holy Gospel...

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

[¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of our Lord...

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

SERMON PASTOR KRISTIN OSTERCAMP

HYMN OF THE DAY "Great is Thy Faithfulness" ELW #733

***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 to the dead. 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** *response:* **Your mercy is great.**

***SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING *Ushers will bring the plates forward at this time.*

OFFERTORY ELW #184 *“Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord...”*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather the harvest from the seeds that were sown,

That we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer,

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

SENDING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Lift High the Cross” ELW #660

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known. **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 LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Kristin Ostercamp Pianist: Laura Rude Organist: Marie Longo

Greeters: Charlie & Kittie Cornell Reader: Charlie Cornell

Ushers:

OUR PRAYERS TO: Lori Wetzel (daughter of Dick & Jan Haugen) hospitalized in San Diego.

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.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored in memory of Rudy Rude by Helen Rude & family.

ZION'S WEBSITE for July is sponsored by Dick & Jan Haugen.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE PRINT bulletins are available from an usher.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP will not be held July 5th & 12th. Supper & Worship will resume on July 19th.

WELCA Ladies: We are hosting the NW MN Synodical Women's Convention here at Zion on Sept. 9. We would like to have someone attend as our voting delegate and the deadline for that registration is Aug. 1. If you are interested in being our representative, please call Glenice at 681-4472. Or you might be interested to attend as a non-voting delegates with registration due by Sept. 1.

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

July 3-9 income \$5,012.

July 1-9 income: \$9,752.

2023 Budget \$340,444. \$6,547. needed per week to meet budgeted expenses.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING forms are in the wall rack by the office door. You can also set up contributions thru the link on Zion's website, or contact the church office.

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. *Thank you to all who have directed dollars!*

THE GROCERIES TO GO & HANDYMAN PROGRAMS are available through our church. If you need this service or would like to be a volunteer for grocery delivery, call the church office at 218-681-3296 and Darlene will get back to you.

LSS RESPITE CARE - Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge. For more info or to sign up please contact Lutheran Social Service at 866-787-9802.

Vacation Bible School "Wholly Loved" Theme Verse: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Revelation 22:13 **August 7th-10th 9:00-3:00** open to all youth grades K-6. \$20 per youth, max \$50/family. If you are in need of assistance with funds for registration please contact the church office. **Registration deadline Wednesday, July 19th. Registration forms available on the narthex table and by the office.**

PARISH HEALTH -

Retirement and aging does have it's perks! It gives us the opportunity to explore a wide range of aging experiences and promotes enjoying independence and fulfillment by paving our own paths as we age. Here are so ways to do it.

Embrace opportunity to change. Find a new passion, go on an adventure, and push boundaries-don't let age define your limits. Invite creativity and purpose into your life by trying new activities.

Explore the rewards of growing older. With age comes knowledge, which provides insight and confidence to understand and experience the world more deeply. Continue to grow that knowledge through reading, listening, classes, and creative activities.

Stay engaged in the community. Everyone benefits when everyone is connected and involved. Stay active by volunteering, working, mentoring, participating in social clubs, and taking part in activities at your senior center, church, or elsewhere in the community.

Form relationships. As an essential ingredient of well-being, relationships can enhance your quality of life by introducing new ideas and unique perspectives. Invest time with people to discover deeper connections with family, friends, and community and church members.

BOREDOM should NOT be in your vocabulary! Have a busy fun-filled summer. God's Blessing and Peace, Parish Health

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Linda Hamrick, Office Manager ziontrf@mncable.net
Darlene Wiseth, Faith Community Nurse zionph@mncable.net
David Lee / Tiffany Sterry, Custodial

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today, Sunday, July 16:

9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship/
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF
10 Coffee fellowship in lounge
10:30 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

Monday, July 17:

9 Sail Exercise Group

Tuesday, July 18:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse
5:30 Zion Council

Wednesday, July 19

5:30 Supper
6:15 Wednesday Worship

Thursday, July 20:

9 SAIL Exercise
2:00-4:30 Respite Care in Lounge

Friday, July 21:

Offices closed

Next Sunday, July 23:

9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship/
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF
10 Coffee fellowship in lounge
10:30 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 23, 2023

LECTIONARY 16

A Righteous Harvest

One of the lessons of history is that when humans try to do the weeding, things end badly. Whenever we try to divide the world into good guys and bad guys, people get hurt. Everyone winds up being a bad guy to somebody, and you can do anything to the bad guys. You can lie about them. You can hurt them. You can hurt other people on your way to getting the bad guys, and that's regrettable. But it's okay to sacrifice some of the good guys in order to get the bad guys, right?

But the kingdom of heaven is not like the farmer who pulled up half of the wheat seedlings while going after the weeds. The kingdom of heaven is more like Jesus, who was so unwilling to cause harm to others that he died instead. Instead of pulling up the weeds and casting them into the fire, Jesus went into the fire himself.

Therefore, the harvest is fruitful beyond imagining, because the harvest is Jesus himself! Jesus bears the fruit of righteousness, reconciliation, and peace. He will gather all people into his care, and they will not be troubled by sickness, or violence, or hatred, or death. This will happen, not because Jesus will destroy all enemies, but because Jesus, by his death, will transform enemies into friends.

The weeds and the wheat are still growing in this world. Although Jesus has already done all that is needed for the final harvest, all of us growing here on this earth still need the help of our neighbors. Just as the farmer in the story instructed his servants to care for the wheat until it was time for the harvest, so God calls us to actively work with Jesus to make things better for people right here and right now.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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