

Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM
Thief River Falls, MN
Season of Pentecost -
July 30, 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** "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW # 742

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.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you." Word of God, Word of Life... **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with ¹all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened ¹it gives light;**

it gives understanding ¹to the simple.

¹³¹I open my ¹mouth and pant

because I long for ¹your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised; who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."
³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Word of God, Word of Life... **Thanks be to God.**

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P: The holy Gospel...

C: Glory to you O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord...

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR MARK HELGELAND

HYMN OF THE DAY “Be Thou My Vision” ELW #793

***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 “Create in Me a Clean Heart” # 186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

***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.

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 “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW #618

DISMISSAL

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known. **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements - July 23, 2023

Season of Pentecost

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: Mary Morken

Reader: Millie Reiersen

Ushers:

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER. Especially: 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 Harold & Mary Dupree by Ron & Ruth Ostby.

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

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

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP at 6:15 PM. Supper served at 5:30 PM

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.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

July 17-23 Offerings \$11,415.

July 1-23 Offerings \$23,219

Weekly Goal: \$6,547.

VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING –Sign up available 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** Grades K-6. Pathways Bible Camp staff will be here to lead this exciting week. 53 youth are registered for VBS!

PARISH HEALTH - We all want to stay healthy and ward off potential illness as we get older and many people of all ages are taking at least a daily vitamin.

Every day we are bombarded by ads for products that claim to boost your immune system and ward off colds and flu, those like ads for probiotics and vitamins. Unfortunately, says a professor of Microbiology at Harvard Medical School, "There's no evidence they help in fighting disease." To understand why, it's important to know how the immune system works.

A delicate balance needs to be struck between an immune system that's effective at limiting the ability of bacteria, viruses and parasites to cause infection...and a hyperactive immune system that can cause allergies, diabetes and other types of inflammatory and autoimmune disorders. According to Starnbach, "If there were a wholesale boost to the immune system, it could trigger autoimmunity and other problems."

Vitamins can help immunity by warding off disease and other health problems BUT....only in people who are severely malnourished. That's not the typical American adult. So if you're already healthy, vitamin formulations will do little to help you stay healthy. On the other hand, there's some truth to the idea that bacteria and organisms living in your gut play a role in your health. That means probiotics could be a benefit. More research is being done on this but for now Starnbach explains, "We don't have any evidence yet as to how we might be able to use dietary supplements to correct problems." So the final verdict...be skeptical of the vitamin claims and if you are healthy, maybe they are not needed. May the Lord bring you good health, blessings and peace.

Enjoy the summer, it is going FAST!!

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

Office Phone: 681-3296 Fax: 681-3048

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today, Sunday, Sunday, July 30:

9:00 Zion Worship
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF
10 Coffee fellowship in lounge
No Silver Creek Worship
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

Monday, July 31:

9 Sail Exercise Group

Tuesday, August 1:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse

Wednesday, August 2:

5:30 Supper
6:15 Wednesday Worship

Thursday, August 3:

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

Friday, August 4:

Offices closed

Next Sunday, August 6:

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

GOSPEL MESSAGE

July 30, 2023

LECTIONARY 17

The Greatest of Shrubs

Surely God's kingdom should end up sounding more impressive. Surely God can do better. Providing shelter for birds does sound like something God would do, but why can't the birds nest in a more attractive tree? A mustard seed, at its best, grows into a sort of weedy shrub. The greatest of shrubs is not that great.

Maybe that's the point. Maybe these little stories are supposed to seem a little strange. After all, God's choices often seem that way to us. God does not always value what we value. God likes small, weedy shrubs as much as big, majestic trees.

That is extremely good news for those of us who suspect we have more in common with the shrub than the tree. It is good to know that God loves both! It is good to know that God loves the mustard seeds of this world enough that God sends Jesus to be a mustard seed, to be the living proof that the kingdom of heaven is real. And the kingdom of heaven is here, because Jesus is here. And as we are filled with his Spirit, we also become living signs of that same kingdom.

After all, a God whose kingdom can be compared with something like a mustard seed is probably not going to stop short of using other unlikely things. A God like that might even decide to use people like us. So look around. What do you see? What do you see that surprises you? What do you see that you normally take for granted? What do you see that's alive? The kingdom of heaven is like that. The kingdom of heaven is even like us, right now. The kingdom of heaven may not do what we expect, or even what we want—but one way or another, the kingdom of heaven will grow.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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