

Zion Lutheran Church  
Thief River Falls, MN

New Traditions Worship  
Season of Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship  
July 23, 2023

Pre-service Music

Welcome & Announcements

### Gathering

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**



## Gathering Song “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” ELW # 857

### Greeting

From the one who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection,  
grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.  
By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your  
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Word

#### **FIRST READING: : Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

#### **PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk <sup>l</sup> in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with <sup>l</sup> all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your <sup>l</sup> love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the <sup>l</sup> pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my  
life; they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full <sup>l</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be <sup>l</sup> put  
to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

<sup>12</sup>So then, 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.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Word of God, Word of Life...**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW #512

## GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God’s judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

**P:** The Gospel of...

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds

are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

**P:** This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

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

**Sermon** Pastor Kristin Ostercamp

**Hymn of the Day** "In Christ Alone" printed in back

**Apostle's 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.**

**Offering** - *ushers bring offering forward*

**Offertory** "Sanctuary"

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. (CCLI Lic. # 11095451)

**Prayers of Intercession** *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.**

**Sending**

**Blessing**

The God of all, who raised Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**      “We Are Marching in the Light of God” ELW #866

**Dismissal**

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

**Post-service Music**

**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 strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Used by permission CCLI # 11095451 song # 3350395

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting 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

## 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: Russ Rhen

Ushers:

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Dora Watson who celebrates her 102<sup>nd</sup> year on Tuesday, July 25th.

**ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE** Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM 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.

**BROADCASTS** today are sponsored in memory of Bill & Lorraine Mathieu by their family.

**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.

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

July 10-16 income \$2,052.

July 1-16 income: \$11,804.

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** Grades K-6. Pathways Bible Camp staff will be here to lead this exciting week. 50 youth are registered for VBS!

**PARISH HEALTH** - Some days the King James Bible App's message is too good not to share. It starts out with a verse, then explains it or adds to the message and is always followed with a prayer. It gives a morning, afternoon and evening message. It is a great way to stay connected to the Lord on a daily basis and sings a short reminder song of "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah" on your phone to let you know it's there. Here is an example.

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. Psalms 55:22

Hardships come to us in many forms throughout our lives. We experience financial woes, death of the loved ones, and health concerns. We often become weighed down by fears, anger, depression or sadness. God is our refuge in times of trouble. He carries our burden with us, and he builds us up so that we are not shaken by our misfortunes. God is loyal and loves us unconditionally.

Dear Father, we seek refuge in your arms. Thank you for helping us carry our earthly burdens and never allowing us to be shaken by our fears. In Jesus' Name, Amen  
God's Blessing and Peace, Parish Health

---

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, [pastorkristin@mncable.net](mailto:pastorkristin@mncable.net) Office Phone: 681-3296 Fax: 681-3048  
Linda Hamrick, Office Manager [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net)  
Darlene Wiseth, Faith Community Nurse [zionph@mncable.net](mailto:zionph@mncable.net)  
David Lee / Tiffany Sterry, Custodial

---

#### **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

##### **Today, Sunday, 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

##### **Monday, July 24:**

9 Sail Exercise Group

##### **Tuesday, July 25:**

9-12 Faith Community Nurse  
1:30 TRCC HC  
2:30 Oakland Park HC

##### **Wednesday, July 26**

5:30 Supper  
6:15 Wednesday Worship

##### **Thursday, July 27:**

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

##### **Friday, July 28:**

Offices closed

##### **Next 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

## **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](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.