

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Thief River Falls, MN

September 17, 2023 9:00 AM



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion Setting Eight

PRELUDE

*(*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.

(Please be seated)

GATHERING SONG “Gather Us In” ELW # 532

***GREETING**

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) (*sung*) [*Kyrie eleison means Lord, have mercy*]

Refrain: **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Refrain:**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Refrain:**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Refrain:**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Refrain:**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (p. 185)

Refrain: **Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain:**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain:**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may
delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before

their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)**

Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia...

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P: The holy Gospel...

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON PASTOR KRISTIN OSTERCAMP

HYMN OF THE DAY “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” ELW #588

***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**

Congregational response: **receive our prayer.**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING

***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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (*Ushers will guide you forward*)

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

***SENDING SONG** “Spread, Oh, Spread Almighty Word” ELW # 663

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

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD EXTENDS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING. 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: Cammy Joppru, Larry & Audrey Korpi

Ushers: Joppru Family

Reader: Russell Rhen

Communion assistants: Paul & Marilyn Adams

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE TABLE This morning we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. We receive the gift of bread and wine, of Christ's body and blood "for you", in faith, trusting that in this meal our Lord forgives us our sins, renews us in faith and leads us into new life. Upon hearing the words, "Body of Christ, given for you," and "Blood of Christ, shed for you," it is appropriate to respond "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." It is also perfectly appropriate to smile a joyful smile, as this bread and wine are amazing gifts. Some Christians make the sign of the cross before and/or after receiving the bread and wine, as a sign of blessing and remembrance of their baptism. The ushers will direct you down the center aisle. After you receive the bread and wine, you will return on the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available from the servers. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please let the ushers know and the meal will be brought to you. At Zion we celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first, second and third Sundays of each month.

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER.

Especially: Those under a doctor's care, those who grieve, and all who are moving through a challenging season.

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 by Mary Ann Lofberg in memory of Gary Lofberg, Roman & Marie Dieder, Art & Eileen Lofberg.

ZION'S WEBSITE for September is sponsored by Zion Memorials

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

Today We Welcome through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: (at Silver Creek)



Emmett Berendt Rupprecht, son of Chantel & Seth Rupprecht

Sponsors are Makayla Burman, and Cole Rupprecht

Lutheran World Relief Kits Display in the Narthex - Check out examples of the various kits and quilts that are made or assembled by WELCA each year for nation-wide and foreign distribution. Last year Zion sent 22 quilts, 84 baby care kits, 332 personal care kits and 59 school kits. Beside each sample kit is a list of items that are included. Contributions of kit items, Thrivent cards to purchase them, or monetary donations for shipping are always welcome. Quilters and kit assemblers usually meet the first and third Thursdays of each month and welcome anyone interested in helping with this ministry.

WELCA (Women of the ELCA) will meet Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited to join in fellowship, Bible study and refreshments as we "kick off" our new program year. Hostesses are Kaylynn Wold and Glenice Johnson. Board meets at 9:00 a.m.

Quilting for LWR Begins Thursday Anyone who would like to help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief is invited to join us on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sewing skills aren't necessary; helping hands can layer the pieces, pin together, or tie the finished quilts. Enjoy some friendly fellowship, coffee and snacks, too!

Choirs meet Wednesday evenings - God's Joy choir (youth) at 6pm and Senior Choir at 7pm. If you would like more information about choirs please contact Laura Rude.

New Member Sunday, October 1st. If you are interested in membership at this time please contact the church office.

Sharing Servant Booklets - updated Sharing Servant books are available to pick up in the narthex.

Home Communion—Anyone in need of home communion, please contact the church office.

LSS Group Respite is a great place to bring your loved one to enjoy playing cards, bingo and reminiscing to their favorite music. Volunteers are also needed to socialize over coffee and interactive videos during Group Respite. Please contact Debi Retzlaff at 218.593.1333 or email at debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org for more information. Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge. October time will expand to 12-4PM.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

Sept 4-10 offerings: \$5,796. Sept 1-10 Offerings \$13,928. Weekly Goal: \$6,547.
Noisy Offering Sept 10 - \$228.71

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!*

PARISH HEALTH - Cases of COVID are once again on the rise in the past 4 weeks with increased hospitalization nationwide, especially in the southern states but definitely not to the extend of a few years ago. There is talk about teachers, students, and healthcare workers masking again but time will tell if that happens. The CDC monitors the trends and rising cases. Not many people test anymore so data is collected by hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and waste waters. YES, the virus can be tested by testing sewage water.

What You Need To Know....Stay Informed.

Do your own risk assessment.

Consider masking/Curtailing Activities.

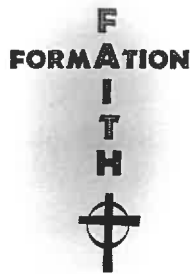
Talk To Your Doctor About New Booster.

There are vaccines and an anti-viral medication that work very well. If you develop COVID, remember to consider getting a prescription for that medication especially if you have several risks factors. It'll definitely decrease the severity of your illness and hopefully prevent long lasting effects. A new booster will be available soon. The CDC will make recommendations on who should receive it. It may not be a "one size fits all" vaccine.

With the start of school and flu season around the corner, be mindful of all the tips and tricks to stay healthy and avoid all the illness that seem to occur in the fall. Happy Fall Y'All, I'm guessing you'll be enjoying cooler weather!
-God's Blessing, Peace, and Good Health...Parish Health

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



Sunday School— age 3 thru Grade 5 from 10-11 AM

Cornerstone Kids—Grade 6 & 7 meet from 10-11 in the youth room.

Confirmation News:

Watch for upcoming information on meetings & start dates for 8-10 grade Confirmation.

11th Grade Retreat on October 1st from 1-5PM at Silver Creek.

Confirmation Day is October 29th.

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP - Join us for breakfast served after worship on Sunday, Sept., 17th.



Free-will donation goes to youth programming.

September breakfast will be served by the 11th Grade Students & parents.

Noisy Offering for September will go to Lutheran Disaster Response for US Wildfires.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: Sunday, Sept. 17:

9:00 Zion Holy Communion worship/
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School/Cornerstone Kids

10 Food & Fellowship breakfast

11 Silver Creek Holy Communion Worship

12 Silver Creek Council meeting

1 Rupprecht Baptism at Silver Creek

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

Monday, Sept 18:

9 SAIL exercise

Fairhills Pastors Conference

Tuesday, Sept. 19:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse Hours

9 WELCA Board

10 WELCA meeting

5:30 Zion Council

Wednesday, Sept. 20:

Newsletter Deadline

6 - God's Joy Choir

7 Senior Choir

Thursday, Sept. 21:

9 SAIL Exercise

1 Quilting

2:00-4:30 Respite Care in Lounge

Fri., Sept. 22:

8 Men's Breakfast at Biff's

Next Sunday, Sept. 24:

9:00 Zion worship/
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids

10 Coffee fellowship

10 Coffee fellowship

11 Silver Creek Worship

12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 17, 2023

LECTIONARY 24

God's Immeasurable Mercy

Forgive seventy-seven times? Jesus' instruction seems, at best, all but impossible and, at worst, dangerous. Sometimes the Bible has been used to excuse abuse in the name of mercy, but Jesus doesn't mean to condone suffering for its own sake or to commit us to endlessly enduring hurt and harm. Instead, Jesus wants to orient Peter and us to the all-encompassing nature of forgiveness. Seven days make the week complete and whole. Grace also extends to us the promise of wholeness, and yet forgiveness that comes from the heart is immeasurable.

Forgive seventy-seven times. The number suggests that forgiveness isn't to be doled out or strictly accounted for, but rather is endless. Forgiveness is not a singular event as much as it is a process. We are amazed and rightly inspired when some Christians are able to so quickly forgive others even the most horrendous crimes, like the Amish community after the West Nickel Mines School shooting in 2006, or some families of the Emanuel Nine in 2015. But today's gospel does not preclude the rest of us. Probably for most of us, forgiveness is much more the destination we are journeying toward than the place at which we've already arrived. Jesus' encouragement to Peter can encourage us as well.

Every day God calls us back to the everlasting promises made in baptism. Our participation in the church's worship life assures us that forgiveness is not something we endeavor to do alone, but rather is a lifelong journey in which we can turn to one another for support. Every Sunday at Jesus' table, we are freely given the bread of mercy and cup of forgiveness. God's grace sets all of us free to extend that same mercy to others. God's forgiveness erases every debt.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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