

Zion Lutheran Church, 9:00 AM  
Thief River Falls, MN  
Season of Pentecost - Holy Communion  
September 3, 2023



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**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** “Love Divine, All Love Excelling” ELW # 631

*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.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you,

not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. *Word of God, Word of Life... Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived<sup>1</sup> with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and<sup>1</sup> have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**  
<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.  
<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**  
<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**  
<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *Word of God, Word of Life... Thanks be to God.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 205)**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

**P:** The holy Gospel...

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him

aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."  
<sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of our Lord...

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON PASTOR KRISTIN OSTERCAMP**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Lord Whose Love in Humble Service" ELW #712

**\*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** "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661

### **DISMISSAL**

Go into the world knowing Christ and making him known. **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: Cookie Overbye, Cammy Joppru, Larry & Audrey Korpi      Ushers: Joppru Family  
Reader: Mike Swenson      Communion Assistants: Patty Schob, Vivian Knutson

**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:** Leon Johnson, Sally Mumm, Barry Fellman

**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 by Zion Memorials

**ZION'S WEBSITE** for September is sponsored by Zion Memorials

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

**Zion is hosting the NW MN Synodical Women's Convention** here at Zion on Sept. 9. Set up for the event will take place on Friday, Sept 8. We pray for all traveling to and attending the conference.

**Sunday School resumes on September 10th.** Little Lambs (3 years old) will receive pins during worship. Blessing of Backpacks will also take place during worship on Sept. 10. If your child is new to Zion please contact Amber Holtan or the church office so we can add the student(s) to our class lists and mailing lists.

**Choirs will begin on September 13th**— 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](mailto:debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org) for more information. Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!**

August 1-27 Offerings \$21,373.      August 15-27 Offerings \$8,815.      Weekly Goal: \$6,547.

**VANCO ELECTRONIC GIVING** –Sign up available on Zion's website or contact the church office.

## **PARISH HEALTH - Healing Your Body, Mind, and Spirit....**

A major illness, personal problem, or spiritual crisis might originate in one area of your life, but it doesn't remain there. You are a complex individual with many different facets, and the events of your life affect every part of you. On the other hand, it might seem discouraging to think that physical pain or disease cannot be confined to your body but spreads to your emotions and mental outlook and prayer life. And it might feel comforting to think that emotional stress and spiritual anxiety could never raise your blood pressure or upset the chemical balance in your body. On the other hand, it's encouraging to know that, because all your various dimensions are interrelated, you can call upon resources--body, mind, and spirit--to find healing at times of brokenness.

In the view of Dr. Larry Dossey, author of "Meaning and Machine", your body is more like music than a machine. He suggests to develop an image of your life or reframe the image you already have. One of the first steps toward holistic healing is simply to depict your life through some kind of an image. The image which emerges from a situation of stress or pain is usually not very appealing. Prayer is a powerful resource for reframing your situation. Prayer enlarges your perspective by enabling you to open yourself to God's influence, so that God's encompassing vision can enter. When an image is reframed in an appealing way, it prompts you to act on it. In addition, prayer and meditation stimulate your confidence and ability to act. As you do, you begin to experience greater well-being and wholeness.

Take heart...if you can harmonize the power of your body, mind, and spirit, you will set in motion a creative process that will nurture the healing of your whole self.

Enjoy your holiday! God's Blessing's and Peace....Parish Health

**Community Calendars** are sold at Hugo's and the Times for \$5.00 each while supplies last. This is a fundraiser for Peder Engelstad Village.

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

#### **Today: Sunday, Sept. 3:**

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

#### **Monday, Sept 4:**

Labor Day—Offices Closed

#### **Tuesday, Sept. 5:**

9-12 Faith Community Nurse Hours  
BOARD MEETINGS  
5:30 Public Relations/Worship  
6:30 Parish Fellowship/Parish Education  
6:45 Evangelism/Lay Ministry  
7 Properties

#### **Wednesday, Sept. 6:**

6 - Confirmation Leaders meeting

#### **Thursday, Sept. 7:**

9 SAIL Exercise  
10 Prayer Shawl Ministry  
2:00-4:30 Respite Care in Lounge

#### **Fri., Sept. 8:**

8 Men's Breakfast at Biff's  
WELCA Pre-Convention set up

#### **Sat. Sept. 9:**

9-5 SWO Convention at Zion

#### **Next Sunday, Sept. 10: Rally Day**

9:00 Zion Holy Communion Worship/ Little Lamb pins /Blessing of Backpacks/  
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF  
10 Blood Pressure screen in lounge  
10 October Sharing Servants in lounge  
10 Coffee fellowship in fellowship hall  
11 Silver Creek Worship; Erickson Baptism  
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**September 3, 2023**

**LECTIONARY 22**

**More Than a Logo**

If the church has a universally recognized logo, it is probably the cross. But branding was probably not what Jesus was thinking about when he invited Peter and those who would come after him to take up their cross and follow. The cross that Jesus calls us to carry alongside him is instead the means by which God chooses to reveal grace in the midst of death.

Rather than follow in the way of Jesus, sometimes the church can simply get in the way. We want to be good followers. We want more people to experience what we have. But sometimes in our desire to draw larger crowds, we end up putting ourselves—our music, our ministries, our outreach—at the center and subtly leaving God aside. In the midst of a world that drives us to always want more, Jesus invites us to deny ourselves. The denial to which Jesus calls us is not about putting ourselves down or neglecting our own needs. But it is about centering the cross of Christ in our lives so that our desires and dreams begin to arc ever more in the direction of God’s love and mercy at work in the world.

The cross that Jesus took up didn’t just belong to him. Two bandits were crucified with him, one on either side, and the Romans crucified many more. The cross is more than a logo; it is a symbol that joins us to a suffering world. The cross is not an individual burden to carry; it is the whole church’s work. Crosses adorn our steeples and worship spaces, but worship also empowers us to take up the issues of the day that are matters of life and death for so many, such as war and violence, housing and food security, racism and climate change. When we shoulder these “crosses” together, the church doesn’t make its own way; we follow the way of Jesus.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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