

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Thief River Falls, MN**

**New Traditions Worship  
Christ the King**

**9:00 AM Worship  
November 26, 2023**

**Pre-service Music**

**Welcome & Announcements**

### **Gathering**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism*



Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.  
We are not faithful in using your gifts.  
We forget the least of our siblings.  
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.  
We are infected by sin  
that divides your beloved community.  
Open our hearts to your coming,  
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,  
open our hands to serve your creation.  
Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
**Amen.**

**Song "Crown Him With Many Crowns" ELW #855**

### **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.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of <sup>1</sup> our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the <sup>1</sup> LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, <sup>1</sup> are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns <sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are <sup>1</sup> also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, <sup>1</sup> for you made it,  
and your hands have molded <sup>1</sup> the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship <sup>1</sup> and bow down,  
let us kneel before the <sup>1</sup> LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD <sup>1</sup> is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep <sup>1</sup> of God's hand.

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. *Word of God, Word of Life...Thanks be to God.*

**Song** "Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595

**Noisy Offering for Christmas for Pennington County**

**Song** "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172

## **GOSPEL of Matthew 21:33-46**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he

will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**Sermon SO... HE IS OUR KING Pastor Mark Helgeland**

**Hymn of the Day "Beautiful Savior" ELW # 838**

### **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.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

**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 Leader: Gracious God, Response: **your mercy is great.****

### **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 Song "Soon and Very Soon" ELW #439**

### **Dismissal**

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

### **Post-service Music**

**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 Reader: Mike Swenson

Greeters: Sean & Ashley Ranum

Ushers: Jim & Stacy Hahn Acolytes: Josh Michalke, Brielle Walseth

**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. Family of Loretta Sourdiff, Ray Wagner & Ken Wagner families on the death of their brother, Virgil Wagner, Mike Swenson & Kaylynn Wold on the death of their uncle, Jerome Melhouse.

**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 in memory of Herb & Joyce; Virgil & Dorothy, sponsored by Tom & Kaylynn Wold.

**WEBSITE** sponsor for November is Dick & Jan Haugen.

**FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN "Called to Trust & Faithfulness"** Everything belongs to God. It is our responsibility to look after and take care of this world and everyone and everything God has created. Being a steward means: God gives us responsibilities to look after and resources to manage. We trust in God's faithfulness and mercy. We live into this promise by sharing what God has bestowed upon us. During Zion's fall stewardship campaign, you are invited to consider the gifts of Prayer, Worship, Learning & Service, and Money. This morning we will take some time to reflect on God's gifts to us and ways we are called to share our time, talent, and treasure.

**The Evangelism and Lay Ministry will be holding an Advent Wreath Project Today** for the Sunday School children, 3 year olds to the 5th graders during the Sunday School hour. Moms, Dads, Grampas, Grammas, Aunts, Uncles older Brothers and Sisters as well as any Friends are invited to come and help the children with this project and to enjoy a time of coffee and fellowship.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** meets on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 10:30 in the lounge.



**ADVENT WORSHIP** begins Wed., Nov. 29th.

Supper will be served at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30pm.

Council is serving supper this week. All are welcome!

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

Nov. 13-19 Offerings: \$7,758. Faith Fund \$4,325. (from dessert/pie auction) Nov. 1-19 Offerings: \$20,906  
Weekly Goal: \$6,547. Carpet donations: \$6,310.

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

**COMMITMENT CARDS FOR 2024** may be left in the drop box at the back of the church, or mailed or brought to the church office. Thank you!

**Worship Board is meeting Nov. 28th at 5:30pm**

**Sharing the Peace** - Due to the increase in COVID cases and the upcoming flu season, Parish Health would like to return to elbow bumping instead of hand shakes and only verbal messages for the Peace greetings during the church service. An increase in our hand washing is also strongly suggested. Thank You!

**PARISH HEALTH NOTES** - Caring for others is very rewarding and satisfying but problems can arise when we caregivers consistently put the needs of others before our own needs. We take care of everyone else in our lives, but tend to think it would be selfish to care for ourselves. Caregivers are like teapots, constantly giving of ourselves, filling the "tea cups" of the sick, the dying, the grieving, and all the people in need at work and at home. As our teapot is filling the cups of all these individuals, it eventually runs dry. Compassion fatigue is what we are left with when we drain our teapots dry, time and time again. We become totally drained and exhausted and we're affected physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

What is a caregiver to do? We begin by changing the way we think about our caregiving. Acknowledge the fact that you ARE affected. Understand that we cannot properly care for others until we properly care for ourselves. Realize that taking care of ourselves, "self-care" is not selfish. Commit to self-care as a healthy lifestyle and not simply "in case of emergency" measure. We need to purposely schedule things every day that refresh, rejuvenate, refuel, and revive us. Read books about self-care or try new things to relax and refuel.

- ▶ Physically....Participate in light exercise, get a massage, rest, try deep breathing, and eat nutritious foods.
- ▶ Mentally....Write in a journal, visualize yourself in a soothing place, read an interesting book, listen to music, and use positive affirmations.
- ▶ Emotionally....Find safe ways to vent your emotions. You express your feelings with family, friends, or coworkers who listen, talk with a counselor, cry, scream into a pillow, or write about your emotions.
- ▶ Socially....Make time for pleasing social activities, take a class, indulge in a hobby, and connect with people who share your interests.
- ▶ Spiritually....Connect with nature, connect with God, read inspirational material, pray, or talk with a spiritual guide like your pastor.

The caregiving that you do is important and valuable work. The patients, clients, and loved ones you take care of need you to be the best you can be...and so do you. Take time every day to refuel for them and for you. - *Blessings to all caregivers who give so much to others. Take care of yourself too!* Parish Health

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

#### **Today: Sunday, Nov 26:**

9:00 Zion worship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF  
10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids  
**10 Youth Advent Activity**  
10 Coffee Fellowship  
11 Silver Creek Worship  
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37

#### **Monday, Nov.27:**

9 SAIL exercise  
Den meeting  
4-6 Recital Rehearsals in Sanctuary

#### **Tuesday, Nov. 28:**

9-12 Faith Community Nurse Hours  
10:30 Bereavement Group  
1:30 TRCC communion  
2:30 OP communion  
4-6 Recital Rehearsals in Sanctuary  
**5:30 Worship Board meeting**

#### **Wednesday, Nov 29:**

9 Bible study in lounge  
**5:30 Advent Supper**  
**6:30 Advent Worship**  
6 God's Joy  
7:15 Choir

#### **Thursday, Nov 30**

9 SAIL exercise  
12:30 Respite Care  
**9-7 Spirit of Giving Drop off**

#### **Friday, Dec. 1:**

**9-5 Spirit of Giving Drop off**

#### **Saturday, Dec. 2:**

**8am-12 noon - Spirit of Giving**

#### **Next Sunday, Advent 1, Dec. 3:**

9:00 Zion worship/Baptism/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF  
10 Sunday School/ Cornerstone Kids  
10 Coffee Fellowship  
11 Silver Creek Worship  
12 Zion broadcast on cable ch. 37  
1 pm Diane Johnson Students Recital



**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 Classes Gr. 8-10 6:00 PM**

**Meals served at 5:15**

All meals \$5.00 include breadstick or fruit or vege, pop or water and dessert

Nov 15: Baked Macaroni & Cheese

**YOUTH NOTES:**

**Thank you to our families for providing treats for coffee following worship each Sunday.**

**Please bring 2 dozen baked goods on or before Sunday,**

**Nov 26:** Cori Bregier, Dana Jacobs, Darek & Jennifer Gerszewski, Darin & Lisa Robson

**Dec 3:** Deanna Alby, Desiree Iverson, Elizabeth Erickson, Eric & Teri Forsberg

**Dec 10:** Eric & Bethany Rwegayura, Garrel & Celeste Kinzler, Heather Blumer, Holly Maycock & Philip Nelson

**NOISY OFFERING for November** will go to **Christmas for Pennington County**

**God's Creation Calendars - 2024** Calendars are available \$8.00 each. Limited number available.

**FOOD & FELLOWSHIP** - Join us for breakfast served after worship on Sunday, December 17th. Free-will donation goes to youth programming. Nov. breakfast will be served by 9th Grade students.



---

**Zion's 14th Annual Spirit of Giving  
Saturday, December 2, 2023  
8:00 AM— 12:00 Noon**

We welcome your donations for Zion's 14th Annual Spirit of Giving.

- New, Clean, very gently used , neatly folded winter clothing
- Household items, toys, Christmas décor and decorations.
- Miscellaneous items
- **No items in garbage bags will be accepted.**
- **No large appliances, furniture, televisions, microwaves, or computers.**



**Donations may be dropped off in the basement Fellowship Hall on  
(No Drop Offs Wed. Nov. 29th— Advent Worship)**

- Thursday, November 30 from 9:00 AM— 7:00 PM
- **Friday, December 1 from 9:00 AM— 5:00 PM**

**No Early Drop offs!!! No Saturday Drop Offs!!!**

If you can help Thursday or Friday with set up, or Saturday event please call  
Millie Reiersen at 218-681-7728 or the church office at 218-681-3296

Thank you for sharing God's love and abundance with others  
and making someone's Christmas brighter.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**November 26, 2023**

### **CHRIST THE KING**

#### **The Coming Kingdom**

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the end of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our national and local budgets, government policies, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable contributions. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' sovereignty that our attention turn outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal, we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's reign. In so doing, our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one in which vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

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

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.