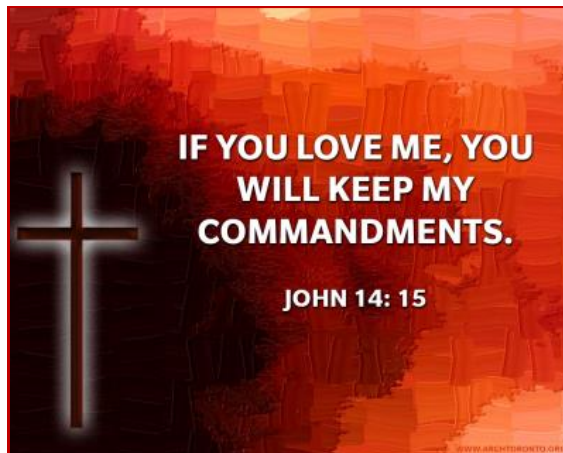


Zion Lutheran Church



May 14th, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool!

Thank you for joining us in worship of the Lord. We would love to get to know you, and for you to learn more about our church family at Zion. Please stop by our welcome table as you leave worship. We cordially invite you to talk with Pastor Grimenstein, our Elders, or any of our church members to learn more about our fellowship. At our website -- **zlcg.org** -- you can find out more about the many worship, Christian education, and fellowship opportunities at Zion.

Communion Statement

We believe that in the Lord's Supper, Christ's physical body and blood are present in the bread and wine (1 Cor. 11:23-25). We also believe receiving the Lord's Supper is an act of church fellowship. Scripture cautions that those who receive without recognizing Christ's body and blood will bring judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Therefore, out of love to our guests, we invite to our altar to receive the Lord's Supper those who are baptized, confirmed, repentant members of Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod congregations or sister congregations. If you are visiting us today from another Christian denomination, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.

In preparation to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner please consider reading "Christian Questions with their Answers" on Page 329-330. If you are interested in exploring membership, please talk with Pastor Grimenstein or call the church office.

Our Worship

Our worship services are based on traditional church liturgies in which God speaks to us in His Word and we respond to Him. These liturgies were used by the early church almost 2000 years ago and are rich in scriptural meaning, connecting us to our past -- and future -- in Christ Jesus. There is a depth to Lutheran worship that can take time to appreciate, thus you may find that you don't understand everything that is happening the first week you visit. That's OK, we encourage you to keep visiting!

Opening Hymn -- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

#821



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, Here on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; His the



scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the
 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! He is
 earth our food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 nip - o - tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of
 scep - ter, His the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! His the



tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.
 near us; Faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful Flee to You from day to day.
 Mar - y, Earth Your foot - stool, heav'n Your throne.
 tri - umph, His the vic - to - ry a - lone.



Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived Him When the
 In - ter - ces - sor, Friend of sin - ners, Earth's Re -
 As with - in the veil You en - tered, Robed in
 Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on Thun - der



like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of
 for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
 deem - er, hear our plea Where the songs of
 flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both
 like a might - y flood: "Je - sus out of



ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."
 get His prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 priest and vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 ev - 'ry na - tion Has re - deemed us by His blood."

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit -- Psalm 119:89–93; antiphon: v. 105



P Your word is a lamp | to my feet
and a light | to my path.

C **Forever, O | LORD, your word
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.**

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

By your appointment they | stand this day,
for all things are your | servants.

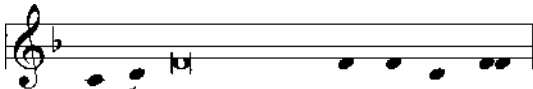
If your law had not been | my delight,
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.

I will never forget your | precepts,
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P Your word is a lamp | to my feet
and a light | to my path.

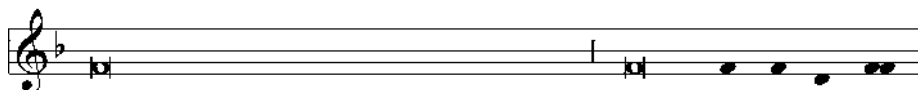
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



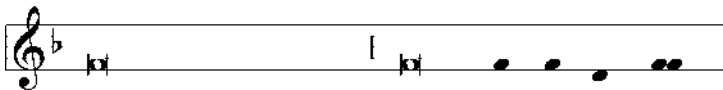
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



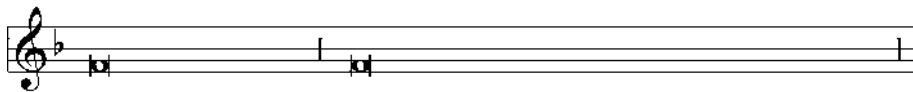
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



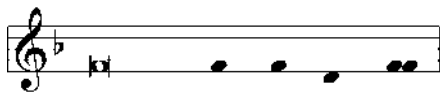
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



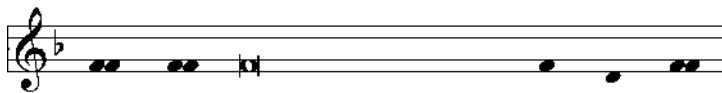
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

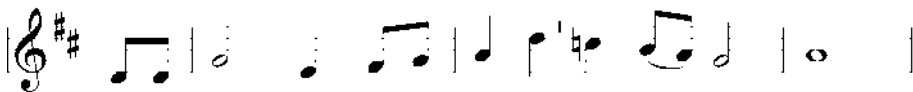


C A - men.

This Is the Feast



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



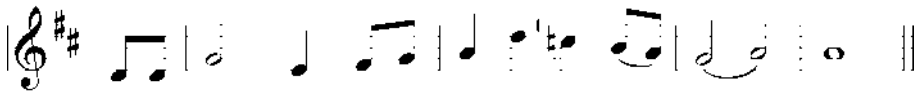
1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

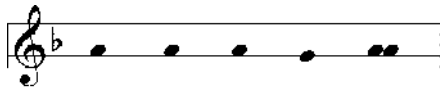


This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



G And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



First Reading -- Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man

whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Quartet -- *His Eye is on the Sparrow* (8:00 am)

Men's Choir -- *Abide with Me* (10:30 am)

Epistle Reading -- 1 Peter 3:13–22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

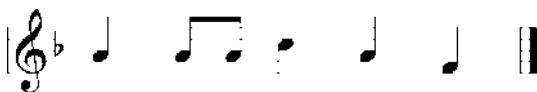
G Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

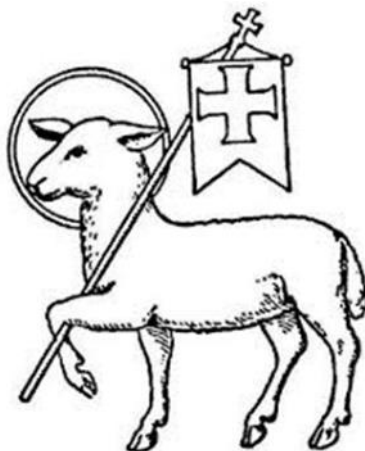
[Jesus said:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



Hymn of the Day -- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice #556

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell;
My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught,
No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.
- 4 But God had seen my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart;
He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.
- 5 God said to His belovèd Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;
A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be;
For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine,
And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to My Father I depart,
From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart,
The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you
And teach you always to be true
And into truth shall guide you.
- 10 "What I on earth have done and taught
Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought
And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy
The heav'nly treasure should destroy;
This final word I leave you."

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P ... Let us pray to the Lord.

C ... Lord have mercy.

Gathering of Offerings

Offering plates are located on the tables at the main and side entrance to the sanctuary.

Offertory



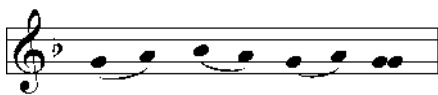
C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

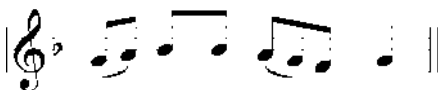
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

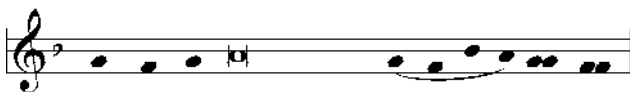
P The Lord be with you.
C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

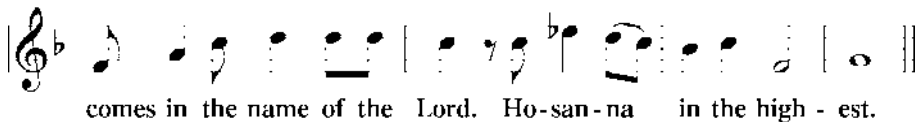
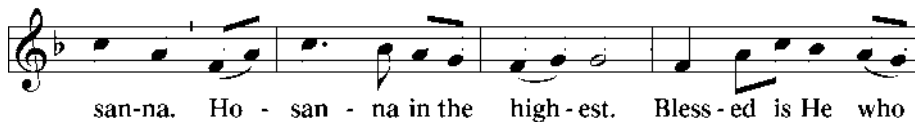
Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.

Pax Domini



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.

Faith Bell Choir – Your Table / Approach (10:30)

Distribution Hymns

Come Down, O Love Divine	#501
Come, My Soul, with Every Care	#779
The Gifts Christ Freely Gives	#602

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

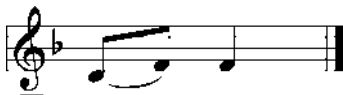


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

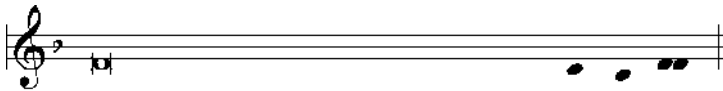
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction



P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.



C A - men.

Closing Hymn -- Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word #655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayer Requests for Family & Friends

The Church:

-**For our homebound members:** Tom Bicusky, Florence Boehme, Gladys Cimarolli, Ron Valentino, Ted & Marian Siek.

-**Healing & Strength for:** Shannon (sister of Maryann McClure), Jon Canale, Judy Bridges, Baby Micah (premature birth), Pastor Ernest Knoche, Jim and Lisa Kress, Rose Steranko, Millie Thielet, Jen Fitzgerald, Barbara & Kara Koski, Mike Wallace, Joanne Garloff, Neil Ackerman, Richard Hultman, Rita Sheldon, Dennis Finney, Eva Bukovitz, Kami Snow, Judy Graziano, Alyssa Mance, Shannon Mance, Dave Hutula, and Mabel Granke.

-**For our missions/missionaries,** especially Rev. Phil & Deaconess Rachel Jaseph and The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.

-For the ministry of Zion Lutheran Sunday School and Preschool.

The World:

-For peace in Ukraine.

-For an end to abortion and human trafficking.

-For the youth in our community.

Our Nation:

-For our leaders and government officials.

-For those in foster care and those looking to adopt.

-For the disabled, unborn and aged.



Service Participants

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Edward Grimenstein
Music Director:	Mark Killinger
Organist:	Doug Krantz
Elders:	Mike Kroeger, Bob Schmidt (8:00) Roger Diederich, (10:30)
Acolytes:	Claire Schrag (8:00); Jeremy Dyczewski (10:30)
Ushers:	Larry & Janet Zreliak, Tim Sheldon, Joshua Grimenstein (8:00) Mike & Aaron Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse, John Gresh (10:30)
Altar Guild:	Janet & Marian Oelschlager

ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Nancy & Paul Klemash in memory of Nancy's mother, Helen Sowinski; and by Jacque Oelschlager in memory of her husband, Jack's birthday.

ETERNAL LIGHT is given by Megan Richards in memory of her mother, Luella Rilius.

YOUTH GROUP for 7th-12th graders was "relaunched" at a pizza/planning party in April. Our May meeting will be next Sunday **from 6-8 pm at AMF Bowling in Mt. Lebo**. Details were sent out via e-blast ... email Susie at Susie.c.bishop@gmail.com with questions.



PARENTS ... A Nursery Room for children 3 and under is available on Sundays in the lower level near the Fellowship Hall (Rm. 101). Parent supervision is required. In addition, the Family Care Room in the back of the sanctuary is equipped with a nursing chair and changing station items.

Last Week in Worship

Sunday Worship Attendance (5/7) -- 63 (8 am); 64 (10:30 am)

Plate Offerings (5/7) -- \$4038 Online Offering -- \$1914.06

Online giving is available on Zion's website at www.zlcb.org/donate



This Week at Zion

SUN 5/14	8:00 AM -- Worship 9:15 AM -- Adult/Teen Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM -- Worship
MON 5/15	6:00 PM -- Confirmation 6:15 PM -- Grace Bells 7:00 PM -- Confirmation 7:15 PM -- Choir 8:15 PM -- Faith Bells
TUE 5/16	
WED 5/17	2:00 PM -- Mid-Week Worship & Bible study
THU 5/18	
FRI 5/19	
SAT 5/20	9:00 AM -- Men's Choir
SUN 5/21	8:00 AM -- Worship 9:15 AM -- Adult/Teen Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM -- Worship 6:00 PM -- Youth Bowling at AMF Lanes in Mt. Lebanon

VBS Online Registration OPEN!



By now you've heard the News
... VBS is back this summer at
Zion July 24th-28th, 9-Noon!

Go to our website today at ZLCB.org/vbs to register your kids and get all the information you need. You'll also find our Volunteer Sign-Up Genius ... we need many helping hands to make this a great week for all!





This Week in Zion Sunday School

A recap of today's SS teaching for parents & students

BIBLE VERSE

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not
all His benefits, who forgives all your
iniquity, who heals all your diseases.

Psalm 103:2-3

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

At the advice of an Israelite servant girl, Syrian commander Naaman travels to see the prophet Elisha, hoping to find a cure for his leprosy. Taking along letters of introduction from the king of Syria, silver and gold, and new clothing, Naaman travels first to the king of Israel. Fearing reprisal from the Syrians, the king sends Naaman away. Naaman is directed to Elisha's house, where a messenger tells him to go wash in the Jordan seven times. Despite his initial resistance, Naaman washes, and his flesh is transformed like that of a little child.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—Naaman's disease was healed when he washed himself in the Jordan River. What "washing" saves you from the deadly disease of sin?
- ▶ *At Mealtime*—Naaman tried to pay Elisha and the king with silver, gold, and clothing. Elisha refused the gifts. Can you pay God for healing you from the disease of sin? Who paid the price for you?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Make a waterdrop out of vinyl or paper. Use a permanent marker to write your baptismal birthday on it. Hang the waterdrop in a place where it can serve as a daily reminder of the blessings you receive in Baptism.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—How did God use servants and messengers in this story? How can we be servants and messengers for God?

BLESS
THE
LORD,
O my soul,
AND
FORGET
NOT
ALL
HIS
BENEFITS
Psalm 103:2

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the "Offering"?

This is the time during the service when we offer gifts to God with the rest of the congregation. The Offering is concluded with the *Offertory*, which is the song that we sing while these gifts are being presented at the altar.



Why do we give some of our money to the Church?

The money that we give goes to help support all the work of the church. If you think about it, all that we have is a gift from God. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts. As

Christians, we give to God in response to what He has given to us: life; food; family; and, most important, our Savior Jesus! We don't give because we have to, we give because, in faith, we want to!



Parents: Before the Divine Service, remind your children what giving to the Offering means. Help them to think of all the things that they have and how they are really gifts from God. Encourage them to set aside a certain amount of their own money each week to give.

