



6th Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023, at 10 a.m.
Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome friends and guests: Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Worship Service: Worship Service: In God's Boundless Diversity, we are all made in God's image! We gather in this time and space, breathing in the Spirit's invitation to connect and learn, and answer Jesus' call to justice and action. If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please fill out the yellow guest card and put it in the offering plate so we may have a record of your presence today. *Come back and worship with us each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Holy Communion: The Sacrament is offered to all worshipping with us. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing instead.

Other Information: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary, our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Vicar Lisa Rygiel at the church (719-846-7785) or contact her via email: zionsluth@gmail.com. Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Gathering of Prayers

Call to Worship

Look for God in this place.

We search for God's love and peace.

It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you.

Lord, help us receive that love and then to bring it to others.

Peace be to you all.

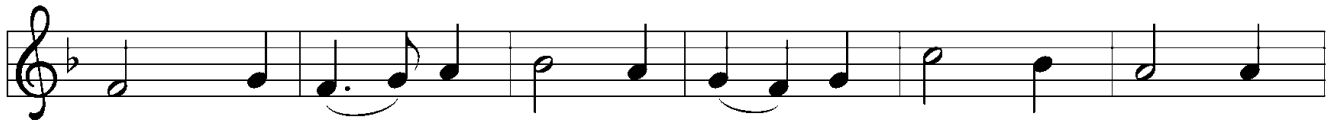
And also to you. Amen.

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.

Gathering Hymn: #631 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (next page)



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Confession & 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

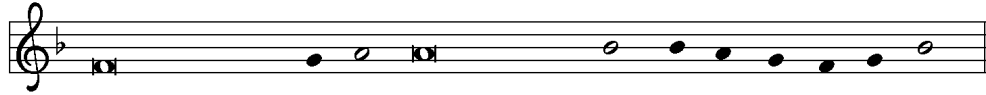
Kyrie (next page)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



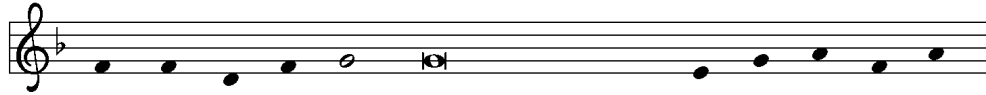
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



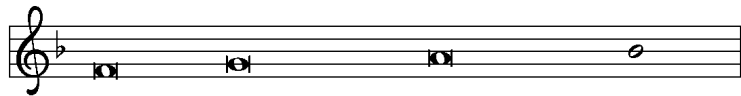
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31 (pew Bible 902)

A reading from Acts.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22 (Pew Bible 985)

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, 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, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 14:15-21 (Pew Bible 877)

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon -- Vicar Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #396 Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing:
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



Refrain

“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

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.

Invitation to Prayer

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God our faithful companion, you promise never to leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to all who are oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving especially we pray for... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, anyone grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Support all for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, you give life and breath to all things. We give thanks for the apostle Matthias and all your saints especially we pray for:...Sustain us by your love until we join the saints in glory.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Please exchange signs of peace with one another using these traditional words that have been spoken by Easter Christians throughout the centuries:

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory: #462 Now We Join in Celebration, vs. 1



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

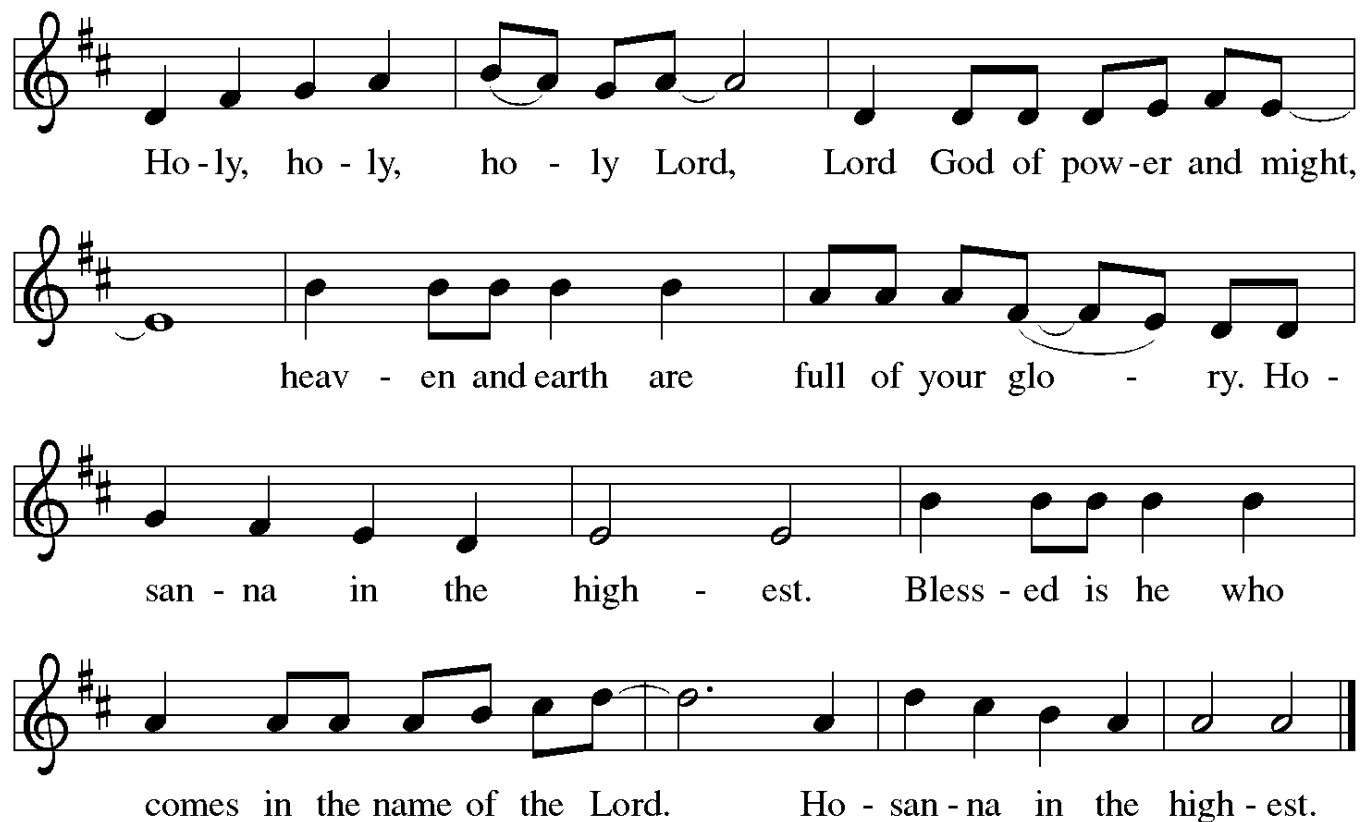
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who

reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

*Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.
This is Christ's table, where all are welcome.*

(Additional hymns may be played if needed.)

Communion Song: *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first three staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the piece with the lyrics 'grant us peace, grant us peace.' The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a bracket with the number '3') over the notes 'a-way', 'the', 'sin', 'of', 'the', 'world;' in the first line, and 'mer-cy', 'on', 'us.', 'Lamb', 'of', 'God,' in the second line. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Communion Hymn: #613 *Thy Holy Wings*



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Table Blessing

May the body & blood of Jesus, strengthen us, preserve us,
and unite us in Love. **Amen.**

Song of Thanksgiving (next page)



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice 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.

Communion Prayer

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

Being washed in the love of Christ, now go into this world with the healing love of God to be given generously in peace and hope. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace, for God's peace will always be with those who live in God's love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #392 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, vs. 1, 2 & 5



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

6th Sunday of Easter, May 14, 2023

Worship Leaders: Vicar Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal, and Tami Hix

Musicians: Connie Pallone, Melodie Lanosga and Sharon Sorenson

Ushers: Mike McNeil and Paula Little

Communion: Jennifer Erickson and Jo Moss

Flowers: Given to the Glory of God by Jeff & Carol Smith for Mother's Day and in celebration of their 44th Wedding Anniversary.

- **Sunday Bible Study:** Our next Sunday morning Bible Study will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Church Council:** Our church council meets at 11:30 a.m. today, downstairs in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!
- **Centering Prayer:** Rita Burton leads our Centering Prayer event beginning at 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 19, and each Friday thereafter, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Rita for information.
- **Women's Bible Study :** May 26, at 9:30-11 am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. We are discussing Jehovah Shalom "the Lord is our Peace". All are welcome. To join by zoom, the link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87573014829?pwd=R3kzMUFxMTZMdEI5ZzVMeUdsVEIGQT09> -- Meeting ID 875 7301 4829 -- Passcode 304100 or call in 301-715-8592. Direct questions to Carol Smith.
- **Zion's 2nd Annual Campout at Trinidad Lake May 18-20:** Those who plan to join us at the campout on Friday for fun & fellowship, lunch is at noon, with Jeff & Carol providing hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, and condiments. We will have plates, plastic utensils, napkins, iced tea, and water. If you can, bring something to share. There are picnic tables, but bring camp chairs for more comfortable seating. All those camping please bring your other meals. We can eat together at the picnic shelter. Questions can be directed to Jeff Smith.
- **Santa Fe Trail Days:** Again the year, Zion's will have a booth at the festival, June 9-10. Paula Little and Mike McNeil are organizing Please let one of them know if you would like to help.
- **Save the Date:** Zion's 135th Anniversary celebration is Sept. 23-24. If you would like to be part of this committee, please see Vicar Lisa.
- **Flower Update:** We share heartfelt thanks for our flower guild and the beautiful additions they make to our worship. You can support their work by dedicating the flowers on a Sunday. The recommended minimum donation is \$35, so sign the flower book today.

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Call to Worship and Benediction (adapted): by Nancy C. Townley in Ministry Matters, Worship Connection -- May 14, 2023 at: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1063/worship-connection-may-14-2023>