



13th Sunday After Pentecost
God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025
10 a.m. *Worship at Round-Up Park*

Welcome Friends and Guests: Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Vicar Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal & Jo Moss
Musicians –Orphan Valley Singers
Ushers – Mark & Jo Moss
Communion – Mike & Becky McNeil



Worship: We welcome all into the fullness of God's love. Next Sunday we return to worship in the sanctuary.

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today for our annual potluck picnic.

Other Information: For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com. Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

Special Music

The Orphan Valley Singers

Please feel free to join in singing familiar tunes.

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

We are called to proclaim the good news: **God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:
God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world. **God is at work in us!**

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism. **God is at work through our hands!**

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: Orphan Valley Singers

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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...that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

Today's Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment.

¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.

¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.

¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me.

¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

Homily: Pr. Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: Orphan Valley Singers

The New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Prayers of the People

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now **especially...** Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

God of might and mercy, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community.

God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **Open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus.
Amen.

Peace

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

~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: Orphan Valley Singers

Offering Prayer

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. **Amen.**

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth...to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Sitting at dinner with friends...we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, 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.

Communion Hymn: Orphan Valley Singers

Song of Thanksgiving



☞ 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

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Orphan Valley Singers

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

- **Fellowship:** Join us after worship for our potluck.
- **God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Service Projects:** This year members of Zion's shared three service projects. We made period packs for unhoused women, helped our member Richard Stewart move to a new house, and built a wheelchair ramp at the home of Doris & Terry Blalock. We are grateful to everyone who helped with these projects, both through their actions and donations.
- **September Newsletter:** The September edition of *Zion's Connections* newsletter was sent via email on Monday, Sept. 1. If you did not receive one, please verify your email address with Jo Moss. Paper copies of the newsletter will be available at worship on Sunday, as well as in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.
- **Guest Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil will be our guest minister on Sunday, Sept. 14, while Pr. Lisa is on vacation.
- **Bible Study Resumes:** Beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, (and repeated at 12:30 on Saturday, Sept. 27), Pastor Lisa will lead a new Bible Study entitled *By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History*. Presented in a combination video and study guide format (no books required), the sessions give participants a chance to see how the drama of the early church's formation affects our lives of faith today.
- **Save the Date:** Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the fenced lawn adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.

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