



6th Sunday After Pentecost – July 5, 2026
A Service of the Word
10 a.m. Worship at Zion’s Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Stephen Hanson, Jo Moss & Mary McKenna
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson
Ushers – Mary McKenna & Mark Moss



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Worship & Music: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry Lutheran Book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

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 tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for our First Sunday Potluck. All are welcome!

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

~Gathering~

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

Welcome, Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

Come all who are weary of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division -- **We come to worship**

Come all who are heavy-laden with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger -- **We come to worship**

Come all who have hope for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom. Hear these words "See, I am making all things new." -- **Let us worship now.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart, give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

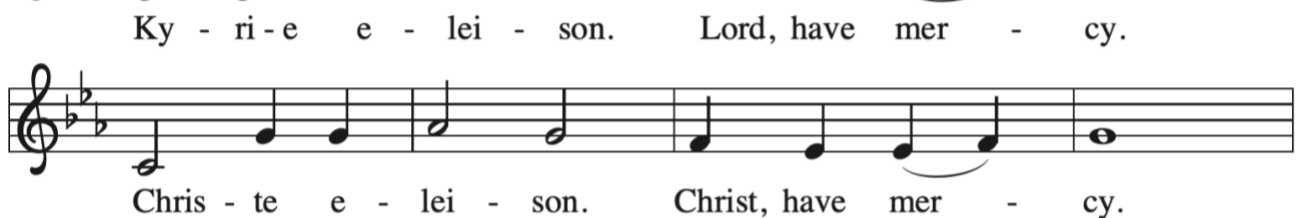
Gathering Hymn: #742 (cranberry hymnal) What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

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

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

God's Word invites us into life. **Thanks be to God!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord,

and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

God's Word invites us into life. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

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

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 11.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Children's Message

Sermon: Stephen Hanson

Hymn of the Day: In This Time of Great Reflection (next page)

1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on two hun - dred fif - ty years,
 2. Here is what holds us to - geth - er: Mer - cy, love, com - mu - ni - ty.
 3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep us hon - est, God a - bove!
 4. Will we work for ra - cial jus - tice? Will we turn from fear and hate?
 5. In this time, O God, re - store us to the land we're called to be—

We re - mem - ber, as a na - tion, times we've pros - pered, times of tears.
 We're to seek to care for neigh - bors in a just so - ci - e - ty.
 In our quest for wealth and glo - ry, we have in - jured ones you love.
 What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that you call us to cre - ate?
 where all peo - ple here a - mong us know your blest com - mu - ni - ty.

"We shall be," a prea - cher told us, "as a ci - ty on a hill"—
 If we fail to help the nee - dy and to build a land that's just,
 Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we have cho - sen ways of sin.
 As we ce - le - brate our coun - try, help us, Lord, to un - der - stand:
 May we seek to be that ci - ty, not with pride but as a prayer.

not to praise us but to warn us: We've a du - ty to ful - fill.
 we will sim - ply be a by - word as the world looks on at us.
 We've been vio - lent. We've stayed si - lent. So our light of love stays dim.
 All of us must share the boun - ty and the good - ness of the land.
 May we love and serve you hum - bly, in our land and ev - ery - where.

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The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the Gospel. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom. Curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy and refuge, we pray for all who are near the **Aspen Acres Fire, Gold Mountain Fire, Ferris Fire, Snyder Fire, Willow Fire, Big Sheep Fire, Red Rock Fire and all other fires affecting our area.** Protect those evacuating or preparing to evacuate, strengthen firefighters and first responders, comfort those grieving the firefighters who have died, and surround every affected community with courage, care, and hope. Guide us to respond with wisdom, generosity, and love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need, especially today we pray for...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, first responders, advocates, and activists. Gather us, with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The spirit-filled 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 by check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:
https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741*

Offertory: #686 (cranberry hymnal) We Give Thee But Thine Own, v. 1

Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and your creation provides us with an abundance of what we need. May our gifts of all kinds and our labor contribute to the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

The 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~

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

Announcements & Benediction

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

And may 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. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #888 (cranberry hymnal) O Beautiful for Spacious Skies (next page)

Dismissal

Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

- ✦ **Fellowship:** Join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for our First Sunday Potluck. All are welcome.
- ✦ **Wednesday Book Club:** The next book club session is Wednesday, July 8. You can join at any time, why not consider doing so now.
- ✦ **Summer Supper Gatherings:** At 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each summer month, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and fun. The next evening of food and fun is scheduled for at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8. Other dates are Aug. 12 and Sept. 9. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for food and activities. If you have questions, please let Julie Wersal or Jo Moss know.
- ✦ **Church Council:** The Zion's church council meets next Sunday after worship.
- ✦ **Newsletter:** The Zion's newsletter for July was sent via email. It also can be accessed at ZionsLuth.org. Printed copies are available in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ **Time of Prayer and Coffee:** We are invited to join our siblings in Christ from the Methodist church for a time of prayer and coffee at 10:30 a.m. each Thursday at Kangaroo Coffee -in the Marketplace on Commercial Street.
- ✦ **Annual Garage Sale:** The annual Zion's Garage Sale will be Saturday, Aug. 1. If you have items to donate, please let Julie Wersal know. We will begin accepting drop offs beginning July 24. Remember that, while Zion's can accept most items for the sale, we **cannot** take electronic or computer items and we do not accept clothing and shoes.
- ✦ **Save the Date:** *God's Work Our Hands* Sunday for Zion's will be Aug. 30 details will follow in E-Formation, the Bulletins, and the Newsletter.
- ✦ **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

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Call to Worship (adapted): from *I Am Making All Things New*, written by Rosie Venner. Posted on the *WSCF Europe website* at <http://wscf-europe.org/mozaik-issues/mozaik-25-the-powers-that-be/worship-i-am-making-all-things-new/>. Used with permission.