

**7th Sunday After Pentecost – July 12, 2026  
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church**

**Welcome Friends and Guests:** God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

**Serving this Sunday:**

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal & Becky McNeil

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil

Ushers – Mike McNeil & John Rygiel

Communion – John & Lisa Rygiel



**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 coffee and conversation. 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.*

### **Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship**

People of God, look about you and see the faces of those we know and love – neighbors and friends, sisters and brothers, a community of kindred hearts.

People of God, look about and see the faces of those we hardly know – strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends, the ones who need an outstretched hand.

People of God, look about you and see all the images of God assembled here. In me, in you, in each of us, God's spirit shines for all to see.

People of God, come, let us worship together.

### **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.

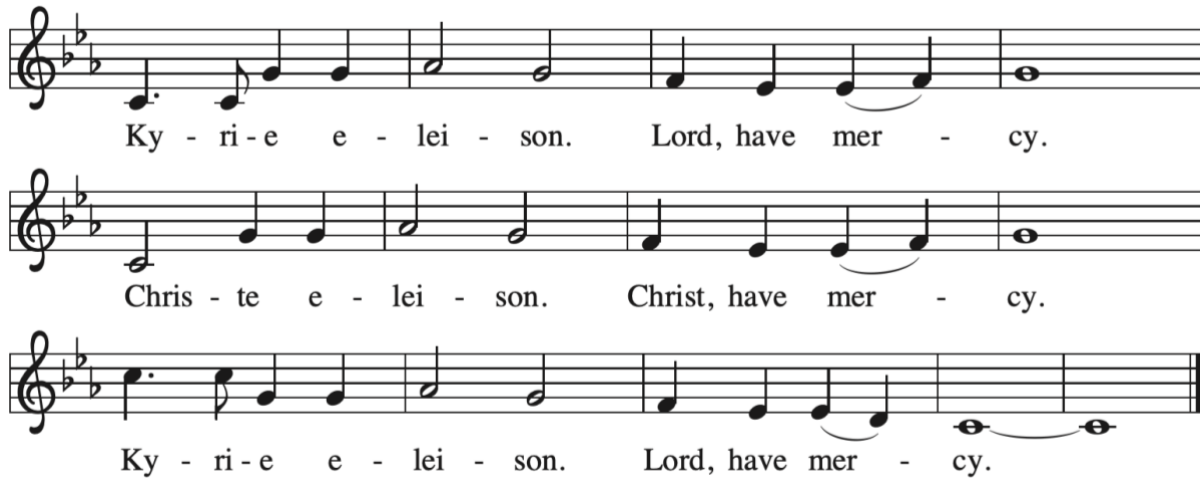
As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be God forever.**

**Gathering Hymn:** #524 (cranberry hymnal) What is This Place

### **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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

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

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

### **First Reading:** Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 65:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

**Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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.

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

**Gospel:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

**Children's Message:** Mary McKenna

**Sermon:** Pastor Lisa Rygiel

**Hymn of the Day:** #1063 (cranberry hymnal) God of the Fertile Fields

### **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**

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, for wildfire evacuees and for the first responders protecting lives and property affected by those fires, and for those we name out loud and, in our hearts, especially today we lift: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment and welcome among us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741)*

**Offertory:** #686 (cranberry hymnal) We Give Thee But Thine Own, v. 2

### Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth...through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

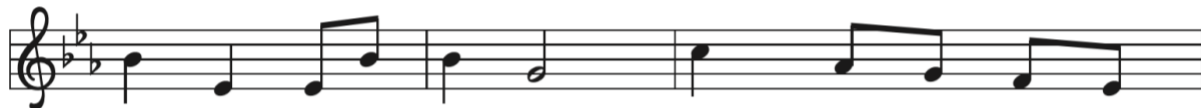
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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...and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



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



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover...And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for your Holy Spirit...We praise you, all-holy God, the Creator, the Son, the Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, 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

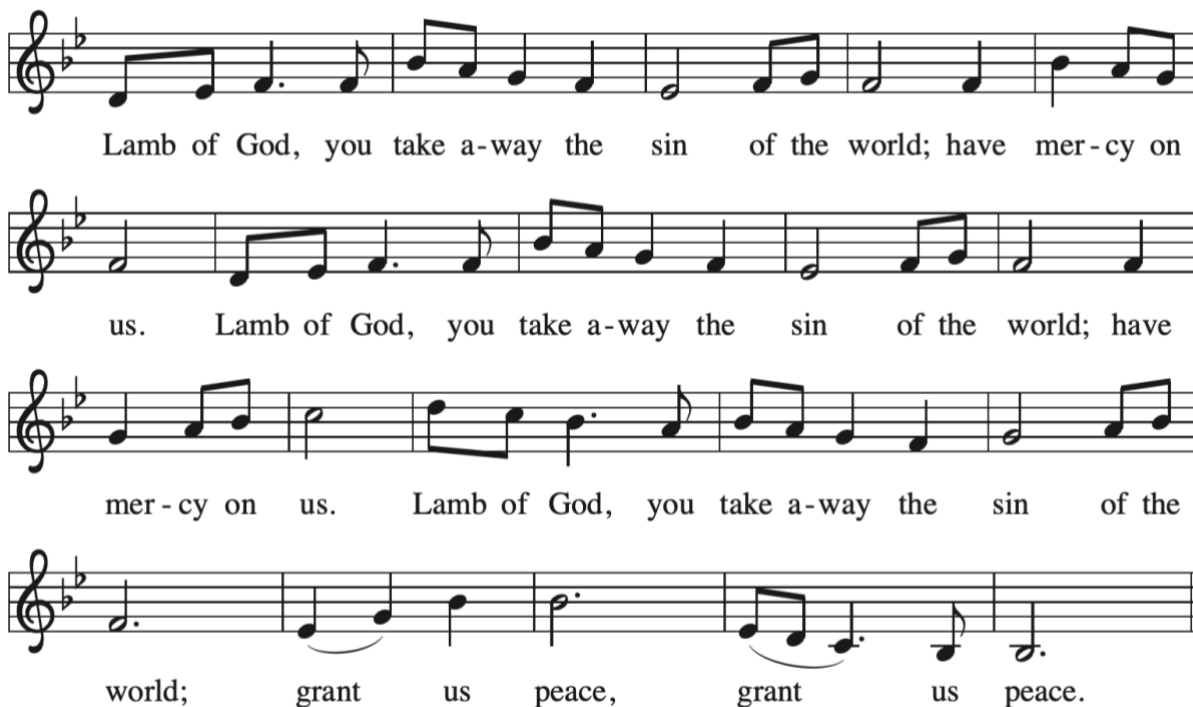
*God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.*

*Taste and see that the Lord is Good.*

*Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.*

*God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness. Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation.*

### **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.

**Communion Hymn: #484 (cranberry hymnal) You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat**

**Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise (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

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*~Sending~*

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

### Announcements & Special Blessings

#### Benediction

Go now in peace, for Christ has called you to live in peace among your siblings in Christ. Go now in courage, for Christ has called you from the places of your life to be agents of redemption and partners in healing. Go now in joy and thanksgiving, for Christ is our light! Go now as one body, to love and serve God as you love and serve the world!

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus.

**Sending Hymn:** #512 (cranberry hymnal) Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil

#### 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 coffee & conversation. All are welcome.
- ✦ **Wednesday Book Club:** Book Club meets Wednesday, July 15. You can join at any time, why not consider doing so now.
- ✦ **Church Council:** The Zion's church council meets after worship today downstairs in the 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.
- ✦ **Celebration of Life:** We will share a celebration of life for Pr. Lisa's mother Carolyn Schatzman at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 18, at Zion's. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- ✦ **Youth Guests:** Saturday night, July 18, Boy Scouts from Troop 540 in Houston will spend the night in our Fellowship Hall on their way to camp. Through the years, Zion's has served as host to various church and scouting groups on their way to summer camps. We are happy to have Troop 540 return for an overnight stay.
- ✦ **Summer Supper Gatherings:** At 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each summer month, we gather in the Fellowship Hall for food and fun. The next supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 12. 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.
- ✦ **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](mailto:zionsluth@gmail.com).

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Call to Worship: *Ann Aspen Wilson, Imaging the Word, Vol 3, p147*

Benediction: *Elizabeth Dilley, and posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-believe/worship/worship-ways/>*