



9th Sunday After Pentecost – July 26, 2026
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Julie Wersal & Richard Stewart
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson
Ushers – T.M. Garner & John Rygiel
Communion – Jody Alford & Terri Watson



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

Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God's love, all things will work together for God's good purposes. **Thanks be to God!**

God's never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God's good creation. **Thanks be to God!**

Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through Love. Amen.

Confession & Forgiveness

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

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...Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be God forever.**

Gathering Hymn: #533 (cranberry hymnal) Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

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

Beloved and sovereign God...life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore, I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

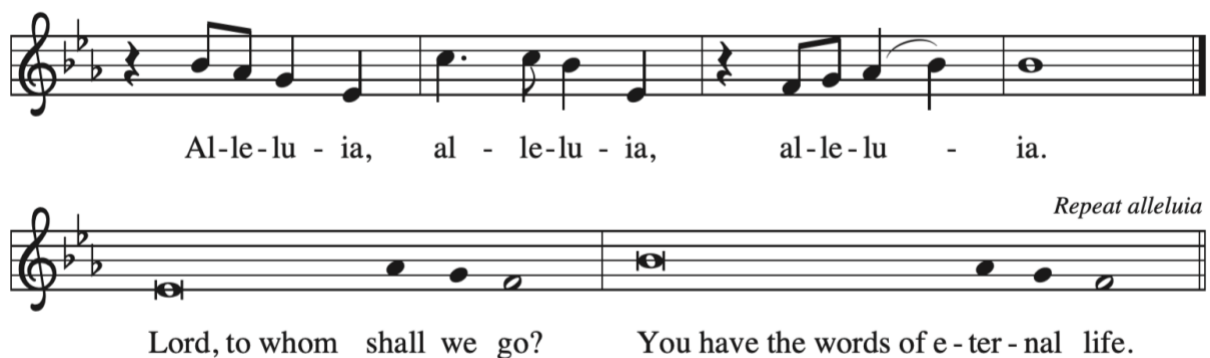
³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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 13:31-33, 44-52

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

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #705 (cranberry hymnal) *God of Grace and God of Glory*

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 wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks and public lands to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples’ stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. Today we pray especially for...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community’s part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope that came before, we give you thanks. 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

Offertory: #686 (cranberry hymnal) We Give Thee But Thine Own, v. 4

Offering Prayer

God of goodness...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...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

Communion Hymn: #1047 (purple hymnal) What Is the World Like

Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise

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 the blessing and assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God. May this good news inspire us all to take up the hard work of building community and acting for the flourishing of all our neighbors, because we do not act on our own — we act on the power of God's never-ending love. And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #519 (purple hymnal) Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

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 is on hiatus during August and will resume in September.
- ✚ **Summer Supper Gatherings:** Our next summer 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, contact Julie Wersal or Jo Moss. We look forward to seeing you there.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **5-Loaves Volunteers:** Thank you to everyone who help prepare and deliver 5-Loaves than 275 meals this month.
- ✚ **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.

A Special Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, August 2, 2026, to authorize the Church Council to withdraw \$11,000.00 from Zion's Lutheran's trust fund. This \$11,000 amount is needed to pay for materials and labor to replace the Fellowship Hall's carpeting with new, skid-resistant Commercial Grade Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring & trim.

The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following Sunday's service. During discussion, all points of view, whether for, against, or neutral, will be provided an opportunity to be heard.

As defined in our constitution (Chapter 8), voting members are confirmed members of Zion's who, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record.

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Thanksgiving at the Table: Adapted from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

Call to Worship and Benediction: by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, February 2026 at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/core-faith/week-4-ninth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-4-ninth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-core-faith-liturgical-resources>. Used with permission.