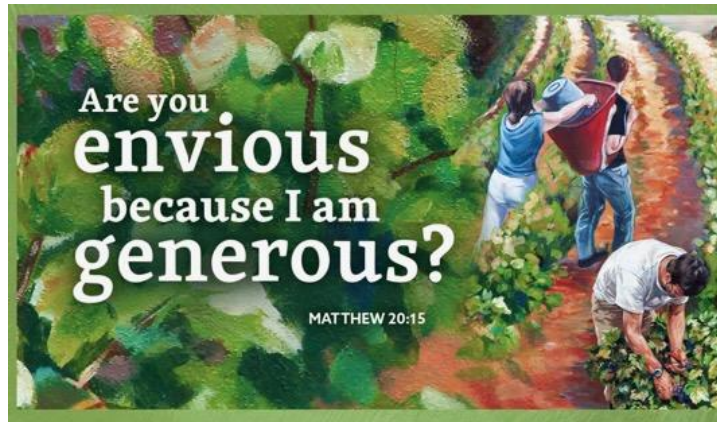




17th Sunday After Pentecost – September 20, 2026
10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Jo Moss & John Strecker-Baseler
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson
Ushers – Steve Hanson & Mark Moss
Communion – Carol Hanson & Jo Moss



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 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

Return to the Lord your God, **for God is gracious.**

Confess to the Lord your God, **for God is merciful.**

Repent to the Lord your God, **for God is slow to anger.**

Praise the Lord your God, **for God abounds in steadfast love.**

Worship the Lord your God. ***Together, let us worship God!***

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

Gathering Hymn: #688 (cranberry hymnal) Lord of Light

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 and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 20. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #1062 (purple hymnal) Build a Longer Table

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

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts among employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all who today lift their unique prayers...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents, especially through our 5-Loaves ministries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort us with the promise of resurrection as we remember our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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: #678 (cranberry hymnal) God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending, v. 1

Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, 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...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: #1084 (purple hymnal) God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise



☐ 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

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

~Sending~

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

Benediction

Now go to be with those forgotten by the world.

We will share God's constant love with everyone.

Now go to be generous with those around you
as well as those far away.

**We will share Jesus' justice and hope
with all who need it.**

Now go to live as faithful people.

**We will join the Spirit in standing side by side
with those who are lonely and afraid.**

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

Sending Hymn: #538 (cranberry hymnal) The Lord Now Sends Us Forth



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Dismissal

(Assisting) Go in peace. Serve the Lord with a merciful and generous spirit.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.
- + **Zion's Book Club:** Our Adult Study is at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Our next study is Tuesday, Sept. 22 in the Fellowship Hall as we discuss "What if Jesus was Serious about Prayer".
- + **Blessing of the Animals:** Our annual blessing of the animals will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, on the lower lawn of the Fellowship Hall, with Pr. Robert Hoenike officiating. All socialized animals are welcome. Please bring animals on a leash or in a crate/cage for a blessing. If your pet cannot be with you or has crossed the Rainbow Bridge, bring a photo or even their "stuffy" for a special blessing. Stay afterward for food & photos.
- + **Docents Needed:** The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a Doors Open Trinidad event on Saturday, Oct. 3. This will be a walking, driving, and trolley tour of Trinidad. Organizers are asking key Trinidad landmarks and historic buildings to open their door from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to let people learn more about the rich history of our area. Zion's Lutheran and Temple Aaron both have been asked to participate. However, if we are to do so, we need volunteers that day who are willing to welcome people to Zion's and to share our history and message. More details will be coming soon. If you can help, please talk to Steve Hanson or Jo Moss.
- + **Proverbs Study:** First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Raton/Trinidad has invited Zion's to participate in September's study of the Book of Proverbs (see the September newsletter for details). The study begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at FUMC in Raton and at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at FUMC on Broom Street in Trinidad.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, Pr. Lisa has office hours from 9 – 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and by appointment. Call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email to zionsluth@gmail.com.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-732264.

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: Written by the Rev. Daniel Commerford, Bethany Presbyterian Church, Covington, GA. Posted on **LiturgyLink**.
<https://www.liturgylink.net/>

Benediction: Written by Thom M. Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. (c) Thom M. Shuman, used with permission.

Dismissal: Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Planning for Proper 17 at <https://www.lca.org.au/worship/wpp/>.