

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Picture courtesy of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

A Christian family who cares for you!

*Welcome to historic Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church*

2901 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, FL. 33602

www.ZionLutheranTampa.com

813-228-8272 to leave message or for emergency call:

Rev. Kenneth Redmann, Pastor 941-457-7576 (cell)

revredmann@gmail.com

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026**

In Christian Love: A Statement on the Lord's Supper

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church believes, teaches, and confesses that in the Sacrament of the Altar—also known as the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, and Communion—we receive the true body and true blood of Christ given to us under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins and for the strengthening of our union with Him and with one another. The Lord Jesus Christ invites sinners to His table, sinners who repent of their sins and trust His promises. Christ Himself makes sinners worthy of receiving His good gifts in this Sacrament.

In Christian love, we are compelled to share that Scripture does warn us that it is possible to receive this Sacrament unworthily! So, what does this mean for us? It all comes down to our Lord's own Words when He instituted the Sacrament: **"Take, eat; this is My body,"** and, **"This cup is the new covenant in My blood"** (Matthew 26:26; 1 Corinthians 11:25). The Apostle Paul says that **"anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself"** (see 1 Corinthians 11:27–32). This is especially true when we ignore, redefine, or disbelieve the words of Jesus, which we, as one body, confess to be true.

Therefore, we ask, please, that those who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or who hold to a confession different from that of this congregation and of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod first speak with the Pastor.

Even if you discern not to receive the Sacrament, we invite you to approach the altar rail and receive a blessing! Everyone who comes to our Church is a blessing to us, and we wish to bless you in return. Please simply cross your arms over your chest to receive the blessing from the Lord. Thank you, in Christian love.

The Preparation of our hearts and minds:

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith

The good Seed, which is “*the Son of Man*,” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “*the sons of the kingdom*” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “*both grow together until the harvest*” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is “*the King of Israel and his Redeemer*” (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, “*fear not, nor be afraid*” (Is. 44:8). For “*the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “*the Spirit helps us in our weakness*” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “*the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us*” (Rom. 8:18).

The Preparation and Sharing the Peace

Please Stand

Hymn We’re Together Again (*located on the front inside cover of: This Far By Faith hymnal*)

Sharing the Peace

We joyfully greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph 4:1-3).

Be Seated

(Order of Worship is taken from Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting 3, pg 184)

Confession and Absolution

644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1–2, 4

1 The Church's one foun-da-tion Is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war

She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more

From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.
 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76
 Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

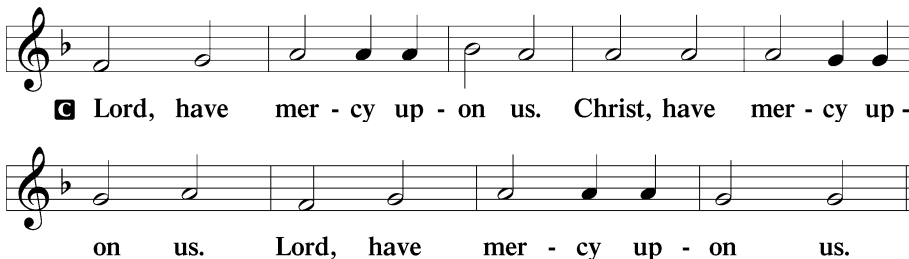
C Amen.

Please Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie

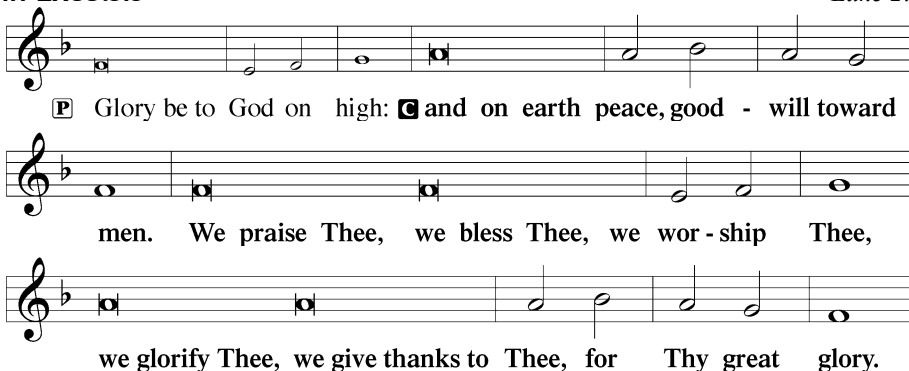
Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Be Seated

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem: One Thing’s Needful

One thing’s needful; Lord, this treasure
Teach me highly to regard.
All else, though it first give pleasure,
Is a yoke that presses hard!
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure,
Jesus, is revealed in You.
Let me find in You my pleasure,
And my wayward will subdue,
Humility there and simplicity reigning,
In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.

Nothing have I, Christ, to offer,
You alone, my highest good.
Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer
But Your crimson-colored blood.
Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated
And thereby my righteousness fully completed;
Salvation's white raiments I there did obtain,
And in them in glory with You I shall reign.

Therefore You alone, my Savior,
Shall be all in all to me;
Search my heart and my behavior,
Root out all hypocrisy.
Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me,
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain—
I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

Text: Johann Heinrich Schröder, 1667–99; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
Text: Public domain

Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

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

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

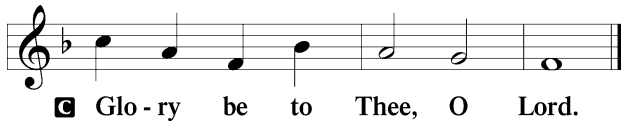
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be Seated

732 All Depends on Our Possessing

sts. 1, 3–4



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
3 Man - y spend their lives in fret - ting O - ver tri - fles
4 When with sor - row I am strick - en, Hope a - new my

grace and bless - ing, Though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
and in get - ting Things that have no sol - id ground.
heart will quick - en; All my long - ing shall be stilled.

They who trust with faith un - shak - en By their God are
I shall strive to win a trea - sure That will bring me
To His lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der Soul and bod - y



Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, 1676, Nürnberg; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645-1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

Life Is Not Fair

Rev. Kenneth Redmann

Please Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12



Offering

When you come forward for Holy Communion, please place your tithes and gifts in the Offering plate at the front of the left pew.

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

L: O Lord, preserve us from error and deliver us from temptation. Grant that we may abide in Christ and His word of truth, remaining steadfast and immovable until the end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: O God, we of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church are richly blessed that You are raising up before our very eyes, Your pastors-in-process, James and Kevin. You send out pastors to preach and teach the whole counsel of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You faithfully, and that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Father, You have given us various offices in our lives. Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Almighty God, bestow Your comfort on all who are burdened by sickness and affliction [*especially we remember Shureese, Sheryl, Lennon, Nolan, Jordan, Paula and all those we now name silently in our hearts and minds...*]. Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Bless all the dear faithful ones gathered here this morning [_____]. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

L: Merciful Lord, grant that all who commune today might receive the Sacrament faithfully and depart refreshed, knowing that they are Your forgiven people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

These and whatsoever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

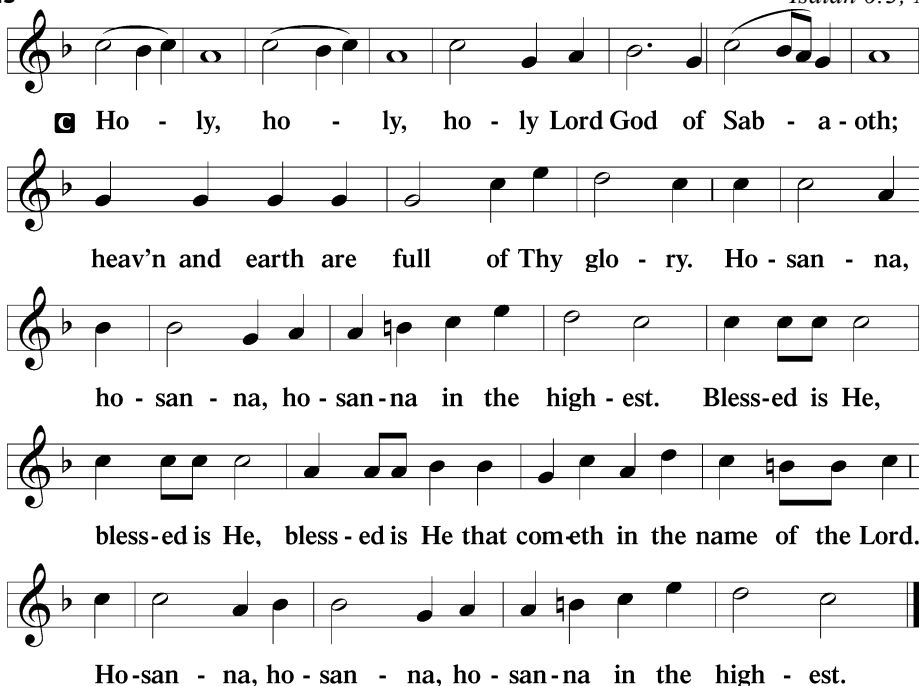


C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C 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.

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Be Seated

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

sts. 1, ref, 2

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.

Refrain
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

Tune: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000932

Tune: Public domain

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Please Stand

Nunc Dimittis

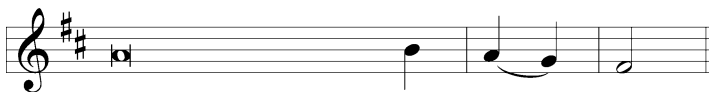
Luke 2:29-32

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



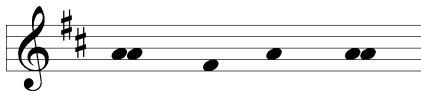
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



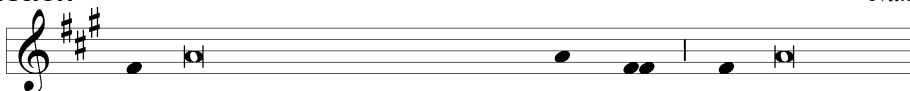
A Bless we the Lord.



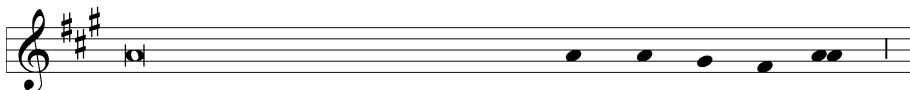
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

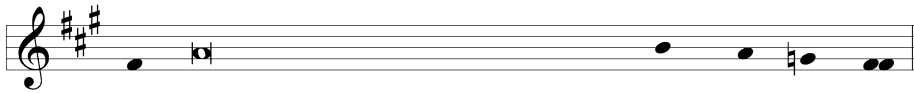
Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Be Seated

729 I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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The Promise of our Lord:

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, (or imagine) according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹ Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen (Eph 3:20-21 KJV).

Thank you!

We are so blessed to have you worship with us!

CALENDAR of MINISTRY EVENTS:

July	Sun	26	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	27	1-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	30	10:00am Have whiteboard will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	31	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homossa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS:

Aug	Sun	2	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study Special Voters Meeting 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	3	1-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	6	10:00am Have whiteboard will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	7	11:00am Have whiteboard will travel to Homossa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

***Please call or text Pastor to let you in the building

AUGUST 12-14 CHET'S TERMITE WILL TENT THE CHURCH FOR TREATMENT

SERVANTS of THE LORD for TODAY:

Organist: Linda Redmann
Lector: James Halfacer
Greeter/Usher: Don Campbell
Asst. Counter: Paula Lewis
Soloist: Kevin Aponte
Elder & Communion Asst.: Kevin Aponte

Tambourine: Paula Lewis
Liturgist: Kevin Aponte
Counter: Sarah Brown
Altar Guild: Sheryl Herold

We're Together Again

We're together again...

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Praising the Lord...

¹⁸ Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord (Psalm 102:18).

in one accord...

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ (I Corinthians 12:12).

Something good is gonna happen...

²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

Something good is in store...

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (I Corinthians 10:16).

Lutherans for Life

July 26 – Pentecost 9 – God does not love us because of any quality in us, such as our age, physical ability, potential, wisdom, race, etc. (Deuteronomy 7:6-7). God chose to love us from His own good grace and mercy and gave all He had, His own dear Son, to purchase the world from sin and have us as His own possession (Matthew 13:44). In doing so, God reveals that every person—regardless of their age, size, or condition—is a precious treasure to Him and is worthy of our love and protection.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING will be held on Sunday, Aug 2, 2026 at 9:15AM.

- LLC recommends to accept Kelly Guerrieri as Assoc. member.
- LLC recommends to extend a one time contract for services to update our webpage to Kevin Aponte for \$500.00. This will include but not be limited to livestreaming and other recommendations by Erica Couture of OurChurch.
- LLC recommends to authorize Pres. Keith Knecht and Pastor Redmann to represent Zion in any discussions with Redeemer City re: review/modify our lease for the purpose of Zion to launch a Homeschool Academy or other ministry.

The RICHES of our Liturgy • The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

What do the parts of the liturgy mean? This is a frequently asked question; maybe you have asked that question yourself. The following descriptions of worship and the parts of liturgy were first published in an article by the former Commission on Worship for the Reporter Insert entitled “Taking a Tour of Heaven.”

*Worship is like no place else in this world.
But there is one place that it does resemble, and that is heaven*

Hymn of Praise

On the night of Jesus’ birth, the angels let loose their earth-shattering song of praise: “Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.”

On that specific occasion, their praise gave utterance to the good news that the Son of God had come in the flesh. Heaven had come down to earth! And ever since, the Church has continued to rejoice in this miracle of our salvation.

The opening words of the Gloria in Excelsis are followed by a hymn of praise to the Triune God. One can imagine the faithful singing these words in heaven: “We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.”

Our focus is on the incarnate Son of God, the only-begotten Son, the Lamb of God, and only Son of the Father. And if that isn’t enough to name this One who is the object of our worship and praise, twice we sing, “you take away the sin of the world.”

There it is, the heart and substance of the Christian faith. In heaven we will be gathered around the throne and the Lamb, confessing that he alone is holy, he alone is the Lord.

In more recent times, the Lutheran Church in North America has made a significant contribution to the church’s liturgy through the alternate Hymn of Praise, “This is the Feast.”

Drawing directly from the description of heaven in the Revelation to St. John, our voices are joined to that heavenly throng as we sing with them:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12)