

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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:

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have “*mercy on your fellow servant*” and “*forgive your brother from your heart*” (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we “*are the Lord’s*” (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will “*stand before the judgment seat of God,*” we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also “*will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand*” (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends “*to bring it about that many people should be kept alive*” (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: “*I will provide for you and your little ones*” (Gen. 50:21).

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

719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction

1 I leave all things to God's di-rec-tion; He loves me
 2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for
 3 My God de-sires the soul's sal-va-tion; My soul He,
 4 My God has all things in His keep-ing; He is the

both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af-
 me will nev-er cease. Up-on His hands He did en-
 to, de-sires to save. There-fore with Chris-tian res-ig-
 ev-er faith-ful friend. He gives me laugh-ter af-ter

fec-tion; His ten-der love is true, I know. My for-tress
 grave me With pur-est gold of lov-ing grace. His will su-
 na-tion All earth-ly trou-bles I will brave. His will be
 weep-ing, And all His ways in bless-ings end. His love en-

and my rock is He: What pleas-es God, that pleas-es me.
 preme must ev-er be: What pleas-es God, that pleas-es me.
 done e-ter-nal-ly: What pleas-es God, that pleas-es me.
 dures e-ter-nal-ly: What pleas-es God, that pleas-es me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81
 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.**

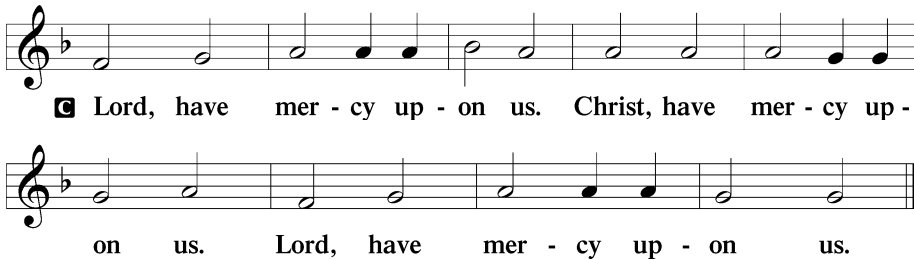
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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.**

Service of the Word

Kyrie

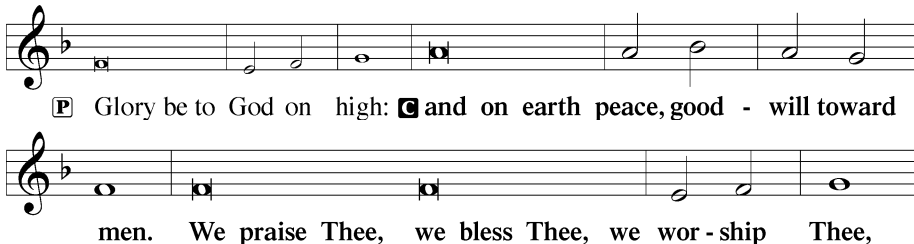
Mark 10:47



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 O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, 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

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm spoken responsively verse by verse. Leader = odd # verses, C = even # verses and **bold print***

Psalm

Psalm 103:1–12

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

³who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴**who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶**The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²**as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

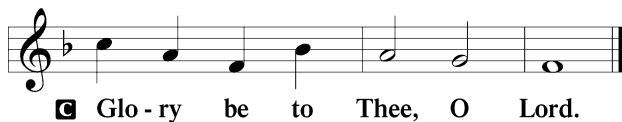
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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



²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant

fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Be Seated

Children's message

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

sts. 1-2, 6-7



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I
 7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have

say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease
 been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,

And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my
 I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to

all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: Forgiven to Be Forgivers

Rev. Kenneth Redmann

Please Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

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 God, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us and to pray for those who persecute us. Lead all enemies of Your Church to true repentance, that they may know the truth of Your Word, confess Christ as the only way of salvation, and finally have a share in the eternal life that He has prepared for all who trust in Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Father, You sent the greater Joseph, Christ Jesus, to forgive His ruthless and deceitful brothers. Build our homes upon that same mercy, that in them brother and sister, husband and wife, parent and child may live together in peace and give witness to the glory of God's gracious ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Merciful God, have mercy on the sick and those in any need [*especially* _____]. Let the dawning light of the new creation in Christ sustain them in faith. In accord with Your will, grant them renewed health — a foretaste of their eternal healing in Him. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Blessed Jesus, we are the few; we are the Remnant of Zion and we seek a rebirth. You have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ needed to be Your thriving Bride. You, O gracious God, know our every need, our weaknesses, our trials and our temptations. Visit all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ with Your abounding mercy and grace. Grant that, individually, we may stand against this world as the Body of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Lord, lead us to pursue reconciliation, that we may stand before You forgiven and united in faith. Give us unity of doctrine, and help us to walk together in harmony of life. Prepare us to receive the Holy Communion with faith, and bring to fruition in our lives the precious gift of grace we receive in His body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

Merciful Master, You are always ready to forgive, though we deserve only punishment. Press the proclamation of this eager love deeply into our hearts, that we, too, may sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: 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



C 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.



C 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, 5

1 I come, O Sav-ior, to Thy ta-ble, For weak and
 5 What high-er gift can we in-her-it? It is faith's
 wea-ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a-
 bond and sol-id base; It is the strength of
 lone art a-ble To sat-is-fy and make me whole:
 heart and spir-it, The cov-e-nant of hope and grace.
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

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Distribution

Pease Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

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 - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

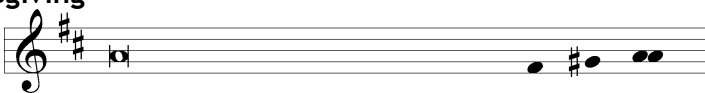
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

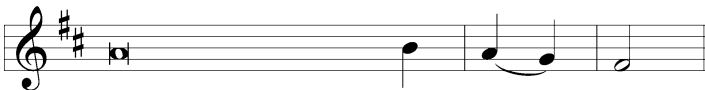
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 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.



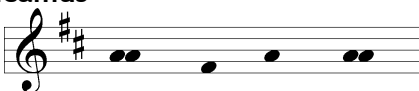
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



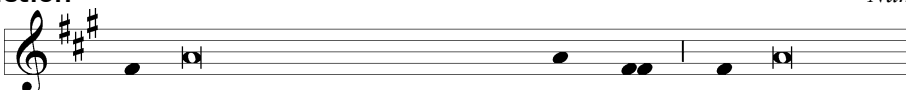
A Bless we the Lord.



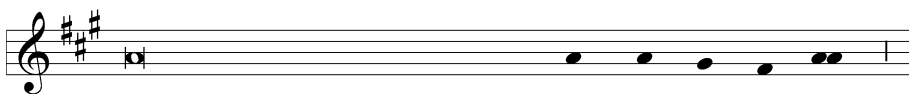
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

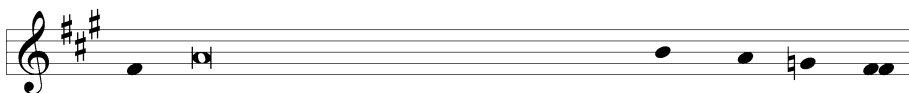
Numbers 6:24-26



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:

Sept	Sun	13	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	14	1:00-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	17	10:00am Have whiteboard, will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	18	11:00am Have whiteboard, will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

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

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS:

Sept	Sun	20	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	21	1:00-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, verse by verse in Matthew with James Halfacer
	Thur	24	10:00am Have whiteboard, will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	25	11:00am Have whiteboard, will travel to Homosassa Springs for AIC*

*AIC = Adult Information Class

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

SERVANTS of THE LORD for TODAY:

Organist: Linda Redmann
Altar Guild: Sheryl Herold
Counter: Sarah Brown
Communion Asst.: Don Campbell

Lector: James Halfacer
Greeter/Usher: Don Campbell
Asst. Counter: Paula Lewis
Tambourine: Paula Lewis

Lutherans for Life

September 13 – Pentecost 16 – Joseph was a man wronged, repeatedly. However, as we find him in Genesis 50, those wrongs against him did not lead him to live with bitterness or a desire for revenge. Instead, we find that God provided him with patience and compassion even against those who had so terribly sinned against him. We are often quick to anger and slow to forgive. May He work patience and wisdom in our hearts when we hear about the numerous ways God’s gifts are twisted. Thanks be to God that He is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Psalm 103:8).

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*

Distribution

Try for a moment to picture the heavenly throng standing before the throne of God on the Last Day. The numbers will be staggering.

And yet, united as we all are to Christ, the Bridegroom, we will be one — his elect Bride. As the faithful make their way to the altar to feast on the Bread of Life in the distribution, they are given a glimpse of that holy Bride.

Oh yes, we see all of her warts and blemishes: the petty bickering over trivial matters, the deep disagreements on more weighty issues, and the painful ways in which we sometimes treat one another.

Yet, by our common confession of the truth, we are one in Christ. As Christ gives himself to us in this holy meal, he strengthens that unity and bids us love one another with a deep and abiding love. How can it be any other way, as we are sent from the table with the blessing to depart in peace?

Thank you to our First Responders!

Last Sunday in anticipation of the commemoration of 9-11, we recognized the following First Responders by name:

Demetrios (Wendy) Antoniadis: retired law enforcement

James Couture: United States Marine Corps

Amanda Evans' family members: her late husband, career Air Force, her son, Army and her daughter currently with the Hillsborough Co. firefighters

Keith Knecht: National Guard

Nolan Marshall: firefighter

Pastor Redmann: United States Marine Corps veteran

MacKenzie White: while "technically" not a First Responder, she saves lives as she nears completion of her fellowship in cancer surgery.

A Brief History of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Founding & Early History

In 1888, the Lutheran community which would become Zion began as one of six Mission stations served by a single Pastor. In 1889 the first Missionary Pastor to serve Central Florida was called. Under this Missionary Pastor, the first regular Worship Services began in Tampa, attended by 20 adults and 5 children. Services were conducted in the afternoon in a room of the local Methodist Church. Moving several times from rented church rooms to a vacant store, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church was chartered on August 26th, 1893, with a constitution signed by her five male members. Zion celebrated their first infant baptism on October 28th, 1894.

Zion's First Home

On November 18th, 1894, Zion celebrated the dedication of their first home on Marion & Tyler Avenues, a modest, unpainted building constructed from surplus materials. A Christian Day School opening a week later, with 2 pupils. By 1896, school enrollment had increased to 22. Now having a home of their own, Zion began offering evening Services in English, with the first English Confirmation in 1902. English Sunday Morning Services began in 1904, alternating with German every other Sunday.

Zion's Present Home

In 1922, Zion began working toward a new, larger home, dedicating the present building on October 25th, 1925. In 1929, Zion suffered a severe blow when they were forced to re-acquire \$18,000 in debt from the default by the buyer of their former location. It would be 1944, supported by contributions from WWII GI's, before that debt was paid. During WWII, Zion conducted Services at the nearby German POW Camp, even bringing POW's into Zion with special permission for Communion Service and Sunday meals. Zion's present location was finally completed in 1944. The Ascension Window at the rear is a Memorial to all of Zion's former Pastors.

Zion's Legacy & Future

Zion is the "Mother Church" of seven LCMS Congregations in the Greater Tampa Bay area and has always been filled with a spirit of service and evangelism, both within her four walls and to the outside community.

Zion is no stranger to struggle and real adversity. The people of Zion have, with God's help, engaged and overcome real trial in every generation. Zion has proclaimed the Word truly and administered the Sacraments rightly – to every soul within her reach.

During wartime, Depression, civil unrest, countless hurricanes and a pandemic, Zion has always had a passion for true Doctrine, about our common salvation, and contended for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

We, the Faithful Remnant of Zion, are blessed to be the legacy of those faithful souls who persevered and prospered through every trial and hardship and who have now entered their deserved and joyful rest in the loving arms of their Savior. It is our privilege to carry on in their name the Great Commission, to go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that the Lord has commanded. For He is with us always, to the end of the age.

