

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Artwork courtesy of fullofeyes.com

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 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 Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: *“The soul who sins shall die”* (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has *“no pleasure in the death of anyone”* (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, *“shall surely live; he shall not die”* (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, *“he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death”* (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, *“God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name”* (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now *“shine as lights in the world”* (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even *“the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God”* (Matt. 21:31–32).

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

812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs

1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs With an-gels
 2 "Wor- thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "To be ex-
 3 Je- sus is wor- thy to re- ceive Hon- or and
 4 Let all cre- a- tion join in one To bless the

round the throne; Ten thou- sand thou- sand
 alt- ed thus!" "Wor- thy the Lamb," our
 pow'r di- vine; And bless- ings more than
 sa- cred name Of Him who sits up-

are their tongues, But all their joys are one.
 lips re- ply, "For He was slain for us!"
 we can give Be, Lord, for- ev- er Thine.
 on the throne And to a- dore the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 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 Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same 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

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1–10

(Spoken responsively: Leader odd # verses; Congregation even # verses)

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

⁶**Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–18

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of

Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

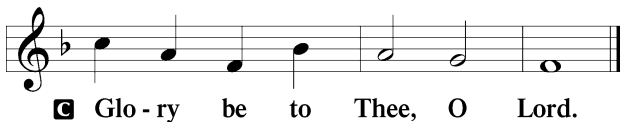
Alleluia



Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’” ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

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

We invite the children of the congregation to come forward for the children's message

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, Send peace and
 by de- ceit or sword Would wrest the king-dom from Your
 Lord of lords a-lone; De-fend Your ho-ly Church that
 u-ni-ty on earth; Sup-port us in our fi-nal
 Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Shine as Lights!

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-



Offering

When you come forward for Holy Communion OR to receive a blessing, 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: Merciful Lord, You founded Your Church upon the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of Your servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord God, You have built Your Church and called her to hold fast to the Word of life in the midst of a crooked and twisted world. Preserve her from all grumbling, rivalry and conceit, and sustain her in humble and devout faith until the day of Christ. Continue Your process of Rebirth for Your beloved Remnant and specifically, bless and keep the saints here gathered in Your name (_____). Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Mighty Father, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord Almighty, draw near to those who face the distress of sickness, surgery and pain [especially _____]. Let them not be afraid, and heal them according to the abundance of Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: Unite us, O Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come at Your bidding to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

L: O God, enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the Word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.

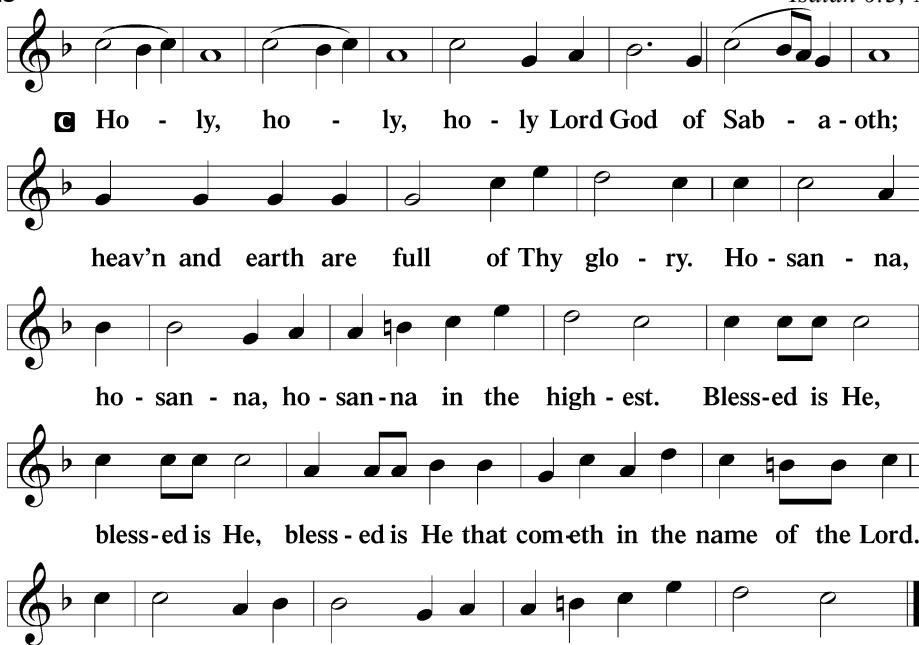


C It is meet and right so to do.

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

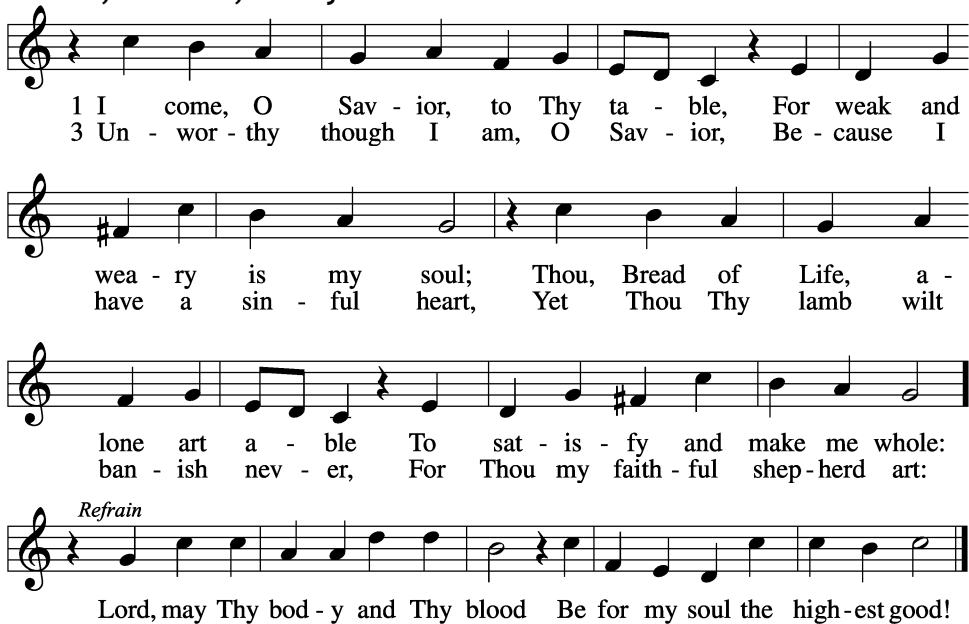


world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Be Seated

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

sts. 1, ref, 3



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:

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

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:

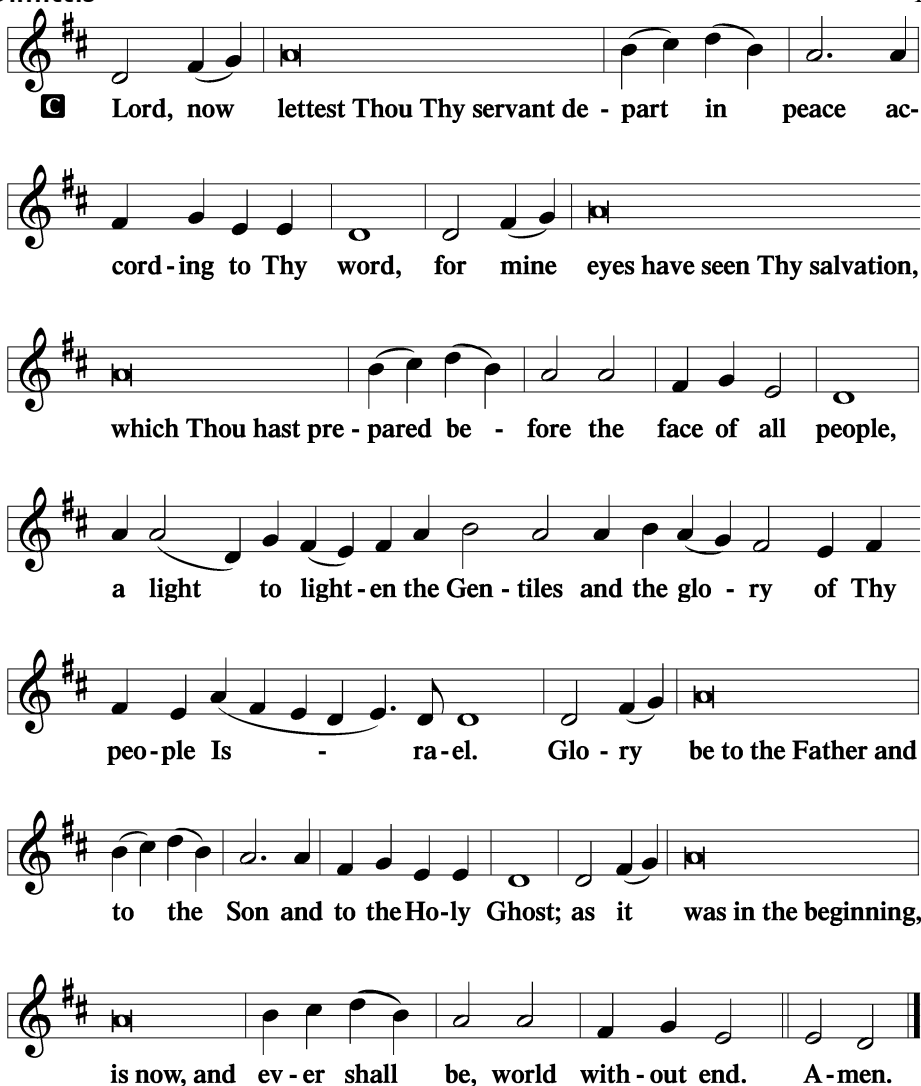
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Please Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

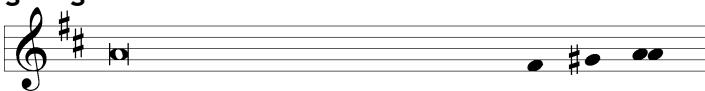


Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son 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.

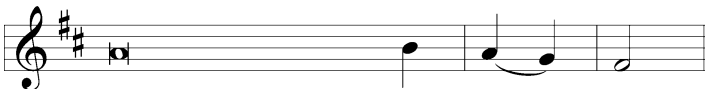
The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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



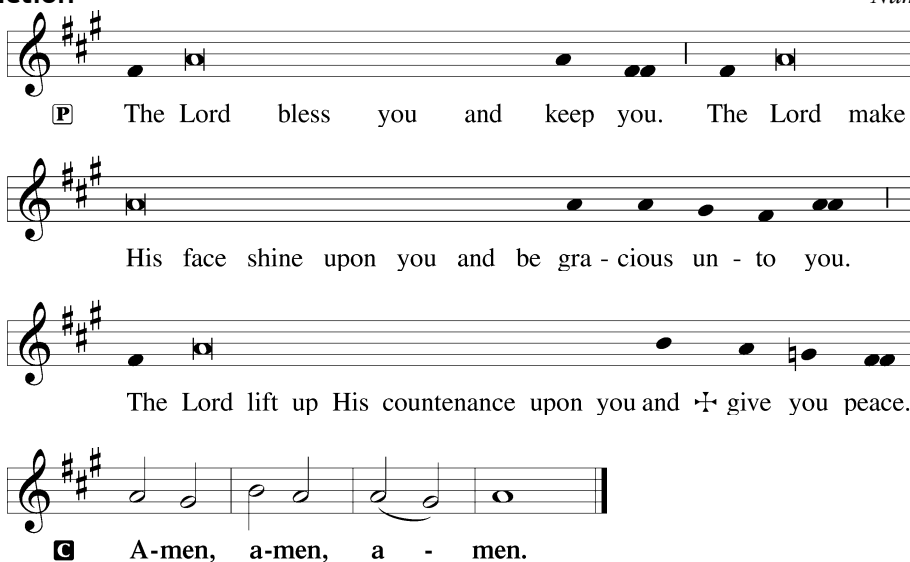
A Bless we the Lord.



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.
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Be Seated

(Please turn to page 20 for the Parting Hymn)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing

To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Welsh

Text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000932

Tune: Public domain

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	27	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	28	1:00-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, "Providence" with Pastor Redmann
	Wed	30	FL/GA DISTRICT President's Equip Conference in Orlando, 3 days
Oct	Fri	2	Pastor Redmann will return home from the conference

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

UPCOMING MINISTRY EVENTS:

Oct	Sun	4	8:00am Divine Service with Holy Communion 9:15am Bible Study 10:00am We adjourn to serve and love our neighbors
	Mon	5	2:00-6:30pm Office hours*** 7:00pm Bible Study, "Matthew" verse by verse with James Halfacer
	Thur	8	10:00am Have whiteboard, will be with James and Leona 2-6:30pm Office hours***
	Fri	9	11:00am Have whiteboard, will tavel 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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Kevin Aponte has graciously allowed me to share his contact information so that, if you wish, you may send Kevin a note of encouragement in his new endeavors in Puerto Rico. He is:

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Lutherans for Life

September 27 – Pentecost 18 – The consistent refrain of the foes of life is something like, “You are more significant than others” or “Look to your own interests.” This refrain seeps into the everyday routine of many because it resonates with our sinful nature. In fact, we grumble at the slightest infringements on our lives of convenience. The Apostle Paul instructs each of us to “look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4). The world tries to drum into our minds that raising up children, serving those in need, caring for the elderly, and tending to those who are dying are useless pursuits. But in Christ we see the value of each life and the joy that God provides in seeing people loved.

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*

Benediction

“The Lord bless you and keep you.”

Recall again the words of Jesus in the parable of the sheep and the goats: “Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom.”

The blessing that God speaks to us in the Benediction prepares us for that final summons. Throughout the Divine Service, God is forming us in his likeness as he establishes in us a deeper and more lasting faith toward him and a persistent and steadfast love for one another.

“The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.”

In their reports of Jesus' Transfiguration, the evangelists tell us that Jesus shone more brightly than the sun, prompting Peter to say, “Lord, it is good for us to be here.”

In heaven we will have the same response because it will be good — very good — to be in the presence of the Light of the world.

For the moment, we see only dimly, but then we will see face to face. Still, it is good to be here even now, in this heaven on earth that we call worship, for already here God showers us with his grace.

“The Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace.”

We Christians are truly blessed in that God does not hide his face from us. In all other religions there is ultimately doubt as to their gods' attitudes toward them.

How can it be otherwise, given that their gods are the creation of their own imaginations? But ours is the creator of heaven and earth.

To be sure, he is a stern judge who holds the sinner accountable. But in the person of his only Son, we see our Father's true nature, his fatherly heart of love. That is the countenance that he lifts up toward us in his holy Word and Sacraments as he reveals his mercy and grace.

Where the Lord blesses and makes his face shine and lifts up his gracious countenance on us, there is peace. Not the peace of this world, but peace between God and his faithful people.

We know that peace because even now, in Word and Sacraments, we have Jesus and all his benefits. And in heaven we will rest in his eternal peace.

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.

