

**Sunday Worship**  
**July 30, 2023**  
**Time After Pentecost**



The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!**

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. if you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*All Are Welcome*

Arr. Lasky

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #533**

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

**C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**KYRIE Red hymnal #120**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE Red hymnal #121**

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Glory to God in**

**the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12**

R: <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136**

R: <sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**C: <sup>130</sup>When Your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

R: <sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant because I long for Your commandments.

**C: <sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love Your name.**

R: <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in Your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**C:** <sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep Your commandments.**

**R:** <sup>135</sup>Let Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your statutes.

**C:** <sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your teaching.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

**R:** <sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**R:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** **Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #401**

**C:** **Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew. It's Your leading that we're needing, help us to follow You. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ. Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." <sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

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

<sup>47</sup>Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup>Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**SERMON** Pastor Dale Schaefer

**HYMN** Red Hymnal #793

*Be Thou My Vision*

## RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

### APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe 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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS** *(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Lord in your mercy,

**C:** Hear our prayer . . .

**OFFERING—Invitation—God’s Work Continues**

**OFFERTORY SONG #674** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

**BLESSING**

**P:** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed  
+ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**C:** Amen.

**HYMN Red hymnal #697**

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

## DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:  
"Serving Christ through serving others."**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Tocatta-Improvisation on All Creatures of Our God and King* Arr. Portman

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by Bob & Deb Keppel in celebration of their 46th anniversary.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted  
using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.*

### In Helpful Service

Pastor	Dale Schaefer
Communion Assist	Brad Kennedy
Reader	Lilian Nichols
Ushers	Bob & Deb Keppel
Greeter	John & Jill Greer

**ATTENDANCE 7/22 & 23:** 105

**Unified Giving 7/22 & 23:** \$2,834.00

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION OF THE MONTH / LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH KITS

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT:

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

**Two ways to help:**

1) Purchase the items listed, put them unassembled in a bag and place it in the collection box in the narthex.

2) Donate money that a group of shoppers can use to purchase the items listed.

Give Donna Slyman a call if you have any questions @ 902-1038.

Deadline is Monday, July 31st