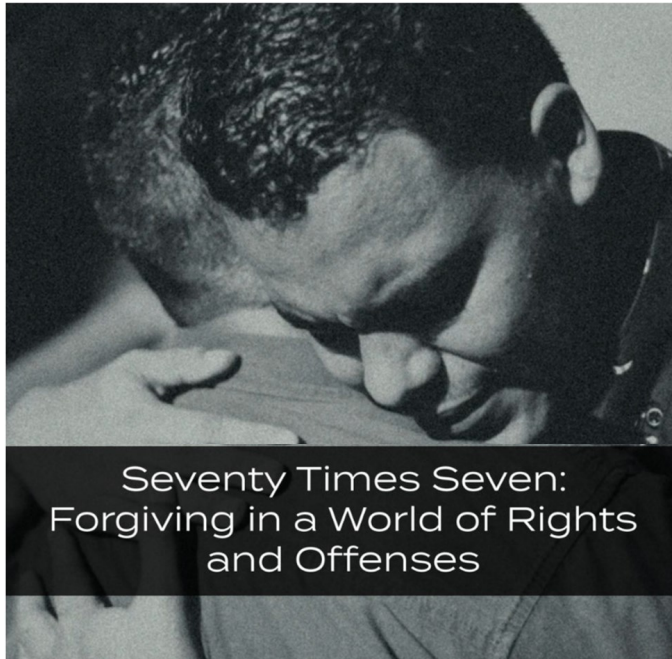


**Sunday Worship**  
**September 17, 2023**  
**Time After Pentecost**



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**

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Arr. Organ

## **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 God, the One who forms us + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Steadfast and faithful God,

**C:** **You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow You. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and Your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from You and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to You and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven

C: **Amen.**

**HYMN Red hymnal #886**

*Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**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 . . .

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through 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: Genesis 50: 15-21**

R: <sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**

R: [<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

C: **<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

R: <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: **<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

R: <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: **<sup>6</sup>O LORD, You provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

R: <sup>7</sup>You made known Your ways to Moses and Your works to the children of Israel.]

C: **<sup>8</sup>LORD, You are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

R: <sup>9</sup>You will not always accuse us, nor will You keep your anger forever.

**C:** <sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

**R:** <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is Your steadfast love for those who fear You.

**C:** <sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west, so far have You removed our transgressions from us.**

**R:** <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so You have compassion for those who fear You, O LORD.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

**R:** <sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If 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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**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 18:21-35**

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON** Pastor Dale Schaefer

**HYMN** Red Hymnal #759

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

## **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**

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 of glory, ✚ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

**HYMN Red hymnal #671**

*Shine, Jesus Shine*

**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. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*In Thee is Gladness*

Arr. Portman

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by Tim & Sue Rambeau in celebration of their 41st 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
Acolyte	Hannah Kessler
Communion Assist	Pam Sauls
Reader	Chris Frame
Usher	Marissa Kessler
Greeter	Co Holley

**ATTENDANCE 9/9 & 10:** 107  
**Unified Giving 9/9 & 10:** \$4,912.00

**Sunday School:** Adult 13  
Youth 2 Kids 9

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GARAGE SALE:** The Mum Festival Garage Sale sign-up is up and waiting for you to put your name on it! We need workers! We will feed you and we promise you’ll have a good time! We also need paper grocery sacks for the bag sale and some plastic bags. You can bring these in and put them in the Fellowship Hall after September 16th.

**THANK YOU:** Thanks for your School Kit donations and help packing those 78 backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. Great job! Also, thanks to Thrivent for their Action Team funding.









