

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2020



Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA
530 Sixth Street
International Falls, MN 56649
218-283-9865

Broadcast live at 9:30 am on K104.1 FM
and live streamed on Facebook

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG – *Sing of the Lord's Goodness*

Verses



1. Sing of the Lord's good-ness, Fa - ther of all wis - dom,
2. Pow - er he has wield - ed, hon - or is his gar - ment,
3. Cour - age in our dark - ness, com - fort in our sor - row,
4. Praise him with your sing - ing, praise him with the trum - pet,



1. come to him and bless his name. Mer - cy he has shown us,
2. ris - en from the snares of death. His word he has spo - ken,
3. Spir - it of our God most high; so - lace for the wear - y,
4. praise God with the lute and harp; praise him with the cym - bals,



1. his love is for - ev - er, faith - ful to the end of days.
2. one bread he has bro - ken, new life he now gives to all.
3. par - don for the sin - ner, splen - dor of the liv - ing God.
4. praise him with your danc - ing, praise God till the end of days.

Refrain



Come, then, all you na-tions, sing of your Lord's good-ness, mel-o - dies



of praise and thanks to God. Ring out the Lord's glo - ry, praise him with



your mu - sic, wor - ship him and bless his name.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Priest/Deacon/Cantor; All repeat Priest/Deacon/Cantor; All repeat

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. Chri - ste, e - lé - i - son.

Priest/Deacon/Cantor All

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son. Ký - ri - e, e - lé - i - son.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to

peo-ple of good will. (1. We) A - men.

Verse 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a-dore you, we glo-ri - fy you,

1. we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God,

to Refrain or Verse 2

1. heav - en - ly King, O God, al - might - y Fa - ther.

Verse 2

2. Lord Je-sus Christ, On-ly Be-got-ten Son, Lord God, Lamb of

2. God, Son of the Fa-ther, you take a-way the

2. sins of the world, have mer-cy on us; you take a-way the

2. sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer; you are seat-ed at the right

to Refrain or Verse 3

2. hand of the Fa-ther, have mer-cy on us.

Verse 3

3. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

3. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the

3. Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

to Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING – 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

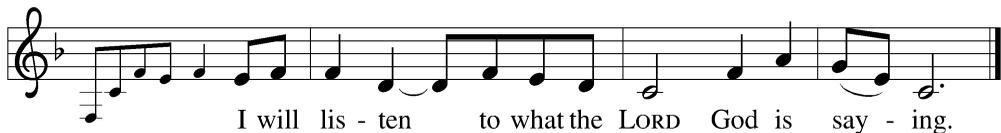
¹¹He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY – Psalm 85:8-13

Refrain



⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. **Refrain**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven. **Refrain**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. **Refrain**

SECOND READING – Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia. lu - ia.

1. Let your heart rejoice in the Lord.
Let your word proclaim his deeds.
Let your voice sing out to the world
that our God has come to save.

GOSPEL – Matthew 14:22-33

Response – Glory to you, O Lord.

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Joe Belanger, Synod Authorized Minister

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Eternal Father Strong to Save*

ELW 756



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

CREED

Along with the church, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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 OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

For your whole church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: “Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid.” May we follow Christ wherever he leads. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation. Protect waterways, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Help the human family endeavor to sustain and be sustained by the resources of your hand. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Everyone who calls upon your name will be saved. Accompany all who are lonely, hear the voices of those who cry out in anguish, and support those who are frustrated in their search for an affordable place to live. We pray for those suffering this day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our congregation. You have gathered us here today as your people and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to this community, for students and teachers preparing for a new school year, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE – The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A TIME OF REFLECTION

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in
the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord, in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
sins of the world: grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION



COMMUNION MEDITATION HYMN— *Seed, Scattered and Sown*

Refrain

Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat, gath-ered and
grown, bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the
Liv-ing Bread of God. Vine, fruit of the land,
wine, work of our hands, one cup that is shared by all; the
Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

Verses

1. Is not the bread we break a shar-ing in our Lord?
2. The seed which falls on rock will with-er and will die.
3. As wheat up-on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,

D.C.

Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ out-poured?
The seed with-in good ground will flow-er and have life.
So may the church of God be gath-ered in-to one.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighbor love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

ELW 763



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

DISMISSAL – Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Worship Leaders Today

Presider	Joe Belanger, Synod Authorized Minister
Musician	Joe Belanger
Liturgist	Cathy Lucca
Sound Technician	John Faith
Live Streaming	Ted Saxton

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HOLY COMMUNION, the Lord's Supper, is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink. All Christians who desire to share in Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, are welcome to receive the Sacrament. We ask that you come forward under the direction of the ushers. White grape juice and gluten free wafers are available for those who wish them. Today we will commune by intinction.

Bishop Thomas Aitken, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, has authorized Joe Belanger to preside at Holy Communion during his time of appointment as a Synodically Authorized Minister at Zion Lutheran. This is an extension of the bishop's own ministry and permission lasts through his appointment.

Prayer Concerns – Helen Knutson, Susie Battalion, Sharon Belanger Averill, Margaret Tyson, Doug Nagle, Tony Miller, Jim Ramnes, Jim Stavseth, and Kathleen Ganter.

Our Radio Broadcast is sponsored today by Randy and Robin Hilfer in memory Donna Hodel.

Flowers were provided by Elsie Korpi and family in memory of Tina (Tyna) Korpi.

May the God of all consolation be with the family and friends of Glenda Phillips, (Lucille Qualley's daughter). Please remember the family and friends in your prayers.

Our radio broadcast and live streaming will continue at Zion. Sunday's service will be shown on KCC-TV Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm; Monday mornings at 5:30 am and 9:00 am. This is our local access station – Midco Channel 7.

Zion's office hours and facility availability continue to be *by appointment only*. All weekly activities or meetings are cancelled at this time.

Today's Noisy Offering will be donated to The Backus Community Café. Thank you for your generous support of this vital outreach in our community.

The ministries of the church are still in need of your offering and monetary gifts as we determine what the church may look like right now and in the near future. You can still mail your offering to the church, and, in addition to the Simply Giving program, we now accept donations through Pay Pal. The financial institution where you bank may also have an automatic bill-pay program for you to utilize. Thank you for your continued support of the work of the church

Backus Community Café – Please note that the Backus dining room is closed, however, meals will be available for pick up/carry out. Guests should call Backus at 285-7225 before 4:00 pm on a café day to reserve a meal. Meals can then be picked up from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm from the east door of Backus (Door #3 facing St. Thomas Church) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

AUGUST STEWARDSHIP VERSE

God uses money to confirm direction.
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths” (Prov. 3:5-6).

Simply Giving – Simply Giving supports the spiritual practice of giving on a regular basis. This online service (direct deposit to Zion) provides more options and flexibility to grow giving, add income to the church, and enhance cash flow. Simply Giving can strengthen the financial health of Zion and help us in doing God’s work together. If you'd like more information or if you're interested in signing up, please contact the church office.



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GOSPEL MESSAGE – Take Heart

We who gather for worship each week know what it is like to feel terrified. We may not be on a literal boat being tossed by the waves, as are the disciples in the gospel story today, but our lives are often rocked by the circumstances we experience. Sometimes the howling wind that buffets our boat is a terrifying health diagnosis. The waves that batter us about might be financial ruin, marital struggles, the demands of caregiving, or a myriad of other issues. We are not strangers to feeling out of control or scared.

Some of us barely made it here today. We are out of energy and exhausted by living in fear. Jesus meets us in the midst of our worry and says, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matt. 14:27). He sings it to us in the hymns of our faith, speaks it to us in scripture, and feeds us with it in the meal.

As we turn to a hymn and open our weary lips to sing, Jesus is present in the words and melodies that God’s people have been singing for a very long time. We sing these hymns in the chapters of our lives when the seas are calm, and when we are certain we are about to capsize.

When someone stands to read a piece of scripture we have heard dozens of times, Jesus comes to us afresh as we hear that word with troubled or peaceful hearts. Christ meets us in the ancient texts that never get old, offering us stability when our little boats seem dwarfed by the raging sea.

We approach the table, steady or perhaps trembling; when we feel beloved and when we are deeply aware of our captivity to sin. Each time, we reach out with our cupped beggar hands, and Jesus offers himself to us: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Zion Lutheran Church will have a congregational meeting Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 pm in the Backus Community Center Auditorium for the purpose of voting to call a pastor for Zion.

Voting members may attend, participate, and vote at the auditorium or online via Zoom.

Registration in advance is required for participating online. Please contact the church (218-283-9865) by 2:00 pm Monday, August 10th to register. Names and email addresses are required at the time of registration so that invitations can be sent Tuesday, August 11th.

Upon accepting the meeting invitation on Wednesday evening, August 12th, voting members will be sent two links, which will enclose the ballots on which we will vote.

Please contact the church with any questions.

Zion's Mission Statement

To Proclaim the Joy of Salvation Through Word and Sacrament

Zion's Office Hours

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Web Site – www.zionluthernintlfalls.org

Email – zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com