**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 19, 2020**

**Graduate Recognition Sunday**

**\*If you are joining us in person, please tune your radio to 1620 AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (ELW 596)**

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**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES**

Dear friends: Life presents us with various significant milestones that set the stage for the next phase in our earthly journey. Graduation from high school is one of these milestones. Today we wish to honor Laura Krikke, Rebecka Nelson, and Izzy Zylstra, who are moving through this special time of accomplishment, transition, and change, and to show them that we, their community of faith, stand with them and support them as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

*Graduates may be introduced by the pastor.*

Dear Laura, Rebecka, and Izzy: At this special time in your life we are eager to show you how delighted we are that you have reached this milestone in your life. As fellow members of this community of faith we rejoice with you and want you to know of our pride and excitement as you move from this accomplishment into the next phase of your life. We also want you to know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are going forward with our prayers for God’s continued guidance, power, protection, and strength.

*Parents may join the graduates.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, when you welcomed the children your invitation included each one of us. Your guiding hand has continually been upon these young women. You have sustained them. You have shared in their laughter and wiped away their tears. In times of confusion you have offered direction. In times of sorrow you have offered hope. In times of doubt your Holy Spirit has lifted them up. Grant, O Savior, Laura, Rebecka, and Izzy the knowledge of your continued presence as they go forth into the future. Bless them and keep them. Guide their steps. Hold them in the hollow of your hand. Bless them and keep them now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The pastor addresses the assembly.*

Members and friends of Zion, will you promise to keep Laura, Rebecka, Izzy and their families in your thoughts and prayers as they go forth into the future?

**We will.**

Will you, as fellow believers in Jesus Christ, promise to help this young women as need and opportunity arise?

**We will.**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord watch over you and keep you safe. May the Lord guide your every step. May you always know of our unending love for you.

**Amen.**

### First Reading    Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

6Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
  and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:  
 I am the first and I am the last;  
  besides me there is no god.  
 7Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
  let them declare and set it forth before me.  
 Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
  Let them tell us what is yet to be.  
 8Do not fear, or be afraid;  
  have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
  You are my witnesses!  
 Is there any god besides me?  
  There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 86:11-17**

11Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;  
  give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.  
 12**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,**  
  **and glorify your name for- | evermore.**   
 13For great is your | love toward me;  
  you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

14**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;**  
  **they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.**  
 15But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,  
  slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.  
 16**Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;**  
  **give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.**  
 17**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to shame;**  
  **because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.**

**Second Reading**  **Romans 8:12-25**

A reading from Romans.

12So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—13for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.  
  
  18I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 23and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? 25But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel** **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

24[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;25but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”  
  36Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Come Ye Thankful People Come” (ELW 693)**

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**CREED**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**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.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. We pray especially for Ascension Lutheran Church and Rev. Julie Bailey. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. 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.**

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

World The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you. You may receive your communion elements.

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word” (ELW 663)**

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**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Pastor Becky will not be recording the service weekly anymore. Her sermon is available on Facebook each Saturday evening or in person on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM.
* Lawn mowing: Zion’s lawn was mowed each week in June! Thank you to all who helped make this happen! July is open for anyone able to help with mowing the parsonage and church lawns. Please contact Tom Krikke if you are able to mow. Available weeks are:
  + July 20
  + July 27
  + Upstairs refrigerator: The church’s main refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen is no longer in service. It was running nonstop and no longer staying cold. All items that were still good have been moved to the downstairs refrigerator.   
    The ZLCW is researching a new refrigerator. Since there is not a rush we plan to take our time to ensure we find a good fit and have one that we know can be serviced in the future by local repair places.   
    The plan is to scrap the refrigerator as it is too costly to repair and this model does not meet current energy requirements. Please see a member of the ZLCW board with any questions.
  + We are still in need of volunteers to be Bible Buddies! The boards of youth/education are working on pairing adults with our children and youth as Bible Buddies. We have close to 30 children and youth connected to Zion. This is not a hard task. If you are willing to send cards or notes with words of encouragement and sharing Bible verses to one or two of our children and teens, wonderful intergenerational relationships can be developed. Please contact Tara if you are interested.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. **Ascension Lutheran Church in Saginaw and Rev. Julie Bailey.**

Prayers for our friends, pray especially for Chuck Bursley, John Johnson, the family of Catherine Boykin, Arlene Krikke, Lisa Hetchler, Keith Ezell, Dawn and Trudy McLaughlin and all those in Michigan affected by the floods, Terry Speese, Janine Kaufman, Brian Smith, Arlene Forman, Cort Zylstra, Jerry Southgate, Mark Willard, Vi Aho, and Chris and Charles Farlee. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries.

For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.