****

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Women’s Thankoffering Sunday, November 15, 2020**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

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

**Gathering Song “Gather Us IN” ELW 532**



## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.

You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys

to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood

you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom.

In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock,

and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,

your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us,

and the deep shall not swallow us up,

for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples,

baptizing in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit;

wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ;

and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free,

no longer male and female,

but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you light our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need,

and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING Micah 6:1-8

*The offering of justice, kindness, humility*

A reading from Micah,

1Hear what the LORD says:  
 Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
 and let the hills hear your voice.  
 2Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
 and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
 for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
 and he will contend with Israel.  
 3"O my people, what have I done to you?  
 In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
 4For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
 and I sent before you Moses,  
 Aaron, and Miriam.  
 5O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."  
 6"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
 and bow myself before God on high?  
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
 with calves a year old?  
 7Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
 8He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
 and what does the LORD require of you  
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
 and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

### PSALM Psalm 15

### 1O LORD, who may abide in your tent?  Who may dwell on your holy hill?  2Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  and speak the truth from their heart;  3who do not slander with their tongue,  and do no evil to their friends,  nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  4in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  but who honor those who fear the LORD;  who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  5who do not lend money at interest,  and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  Those who do these things shall never be moved.

### SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God*

### A reading from 1 Corinthians.

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,  
 "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
 and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."  
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.  
26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
3"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
4"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
5"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
6"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
7"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
9"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
10"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account 12Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SPEAKER Buffy Meyers “What is Thankoffering?”**

### HYMN OF THE DAY “Children of the Heavenly Father” ELW 781

### 

**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

Called together in the Spirit’s embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, for those in need, and for all of God’s creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your people together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ to carry out his holy mission, together sharing the good news of your justice and love wherever we are sent. We pray especially for Grace Lutheran Church and Rev. Paulette Cummings. Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into the saving waters that nourish and sustain all the earth. Renew us every day by your water and your word. Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the stony wilderness of sin, and toward the holy light of love, justice, and peace. Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: For those who hunger and thirst for peace, for belonging, for love, for righteousness, shine your light of justice. For those who mourn or suffer in any way, shine your light of comfort. We pray especially for Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence. Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom. Christ, be our light.

### Shine in your church gathered today.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC Ruth Hindman**

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied.

**Amen**.

**SENDING**

Our God calls us to do justice. May you find strength in God’s grace.

### Amen.

Christ Jesus calls us to love kindness. May you find comfort in Christ’s gentleness.

### Amen.

The Holy Spirit calls us to walk humbly with our triune God. May you always find joy in God’s love and justice.

**Amen.**

Holy Trinity + One God, bless you now and forever.

### Amen.

**SENDING SONG “On Eagle’s Wings” ELW 787**





**DISMISAL**

Rejoice and be glad in the light of God’s love! Let us go forth in peace to share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED TODAY:**

**Presider and Elder: Jolene Griffin**

**Speaker: Buffy Meyers**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Special Music: Ruth Hindman**

**Trustee: Tom Krikke**

**Offering counters: Jerry Engle & Brenda Bite**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Today is the ZLCW’s special Thankoffering service. Jolene Griffin will lead worship with Ruth Hindman providing special music. Buffy Meyers will tell about what the Thankoffering monies are used for by the W/ELCA. Thank you, Jolene, Ruth, and Buffy. Blue Thankoffering envelopes are in your mailbox. Please make checks out to the ZLCW and put your donations in the baskets as you leave the service.
* **Advent devotions are in your mailboxes as well as offering envelopes. They will be there through this Sunday then we will work on mailing the rest out. Please take them home so we know who needs theirs mailed and if you can take a family member’s items as well, that would be very helpful.**
  + Women’s Bible Study will meet this Tuesday, November 17, at 1 PM at the church, in the Fireside Room.
  + Counters Needed. We are in need of a few more people to serve as volunteer counters for Sunday Offerings.  If you are willing to serve in this role, please let Martha or Karen know. Thank you.