**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021**

**\*If you are listening in your car, 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.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Joyful, Joyful We Adore The” ELW 836**

 

**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**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading**    **Acts 10:44-48**

A reading from Acts.

44While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm  Psalm 98**

  1Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done | marvelous things,
  whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
**2O Lord, you have made | known your victory,
  you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.** 3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
  all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
**4Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;
  lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**  5Sing to the Lord| with the harp,
  with the harp and the | voice of song.
**6With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
  shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.** 7Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
  the world and those who | dwell therein.
**8Let the rivers | clap their hands,
  and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to | judge the earth.** 9The Lord will judge the | world with righteousness
  and the peo- | ples with equity.

**Second Reading**  **1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from 1 John.

1Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. 2By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. 3For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, 4for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. 5Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
  6This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

**Gospel** **John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 9“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. 11I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.
  12“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Hymn of the Day “Where Charity and Love Prevail” ELW 359**



**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**

 Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. We also pray especially for Christ United Church and Rev. Terry Williamson. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations’ leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

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

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

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 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.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**\*PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE\***

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

**Presider: Pastor Becky Ebb-Speese**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

**Offering Counters: Mary Makley and Martha Yoder**

**Safety Person: Dan Zylstra**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* + Prayer Chain List: Council would like to update the published Prayer Chain email list and call tree. If there is anyone who would like to participate but is not currently receiving emails or a phone call about prayer requests or church announcements, please send your information to Mary Smith via email at Clmasmith78@gmail.com or by phone at 269-367-4830. Thank you.
	+ We are beginning work on an updated directory. If you have had an address, email or phone number change since the last one, please send your information to Tara at office@zionwoodland.org or put the correction in the Secretary’s mailbox. A flyer with your information will be in your mailbox. Please verify the information is correct and place it in the Secretary’s mailbox. If your flyer has not been picked up in a couple weeks, it will be mailed to you.
	+ In the month of May, Zion will be doing another collection for Manna's Market. This Action Team project is for supplies used in the bathroom. We all take for granted items we use in the bathroom every day. We can help Manna's Market provide free needed items for others in our community. Jerry Engle has been given a $250 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to purchase some of the supplies. The items most needed are toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels and all sizes of garbage bags. Other items to donate are shampoo, cream rinse, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shave gel, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaning wipes and any other items you know would be useful.  You may also donate cash to be given to Manna's Market. A table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall for all donated items. Sunday, May 23rd. will be the last day to bring items. That week the action team will pack everything up and deliver it all to Manna's Market.
	+ **Zion is starting a tech team to do the live stream for our services. Paul Meade will be glad to train people. Please let Pastor Becky or Paul know if you would like to serve in this way.**