**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 17, 2023**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***



**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 & 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.**

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“Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven” ELW 864**



**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**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**GLORY TO GOD**





**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

**First Reading  Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.

15Realizing 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?” 16So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, 17‘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. 18Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.”

19But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20Even 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. 21So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

[ 1Bless the Lord, **|** O my soul,  
  and all that is within me, bless God’s **|** holy name.  
 2**Bless the Lord, | O my soul,**  
  **and forget not | all God’s benefits—**  
 3who forgives **|** all your sins  
  and heals all **|** your diseases;  
 4**who redeems your life | from the grave**  
  **and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**  
 5who satisfies your desires **|** with good things  
  so that your youth is renewed **|** like an eagle’s.  
 6**O Lord, you provide | vindication**  
  **and justice for all who | are oppressed.**  
 7You made known your **|** ways to Moses  
  and your works to the chil- **|** dren of Israel.  
]  8**Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**  
  **slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**  
 9you will not al- **|** ways accuse us,  
  nor will you keep your an- **|** ger forever.  
 10**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**  
  **nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**  
 11For as the heavens are high a- **|** bove the earth,  
  so great is your steadfast love for **|** those who fear you.  
 12**As far as the east is | from the west,**  
  **so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**  
 13As a father has compassion **|** for his children,  
  so you have compassion for those who fear **|** you, O Lord.

**Second Reading Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Romans.

1Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those 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. 4Who 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.  
 5Some 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. 6Those 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.  
 7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If 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. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.  
 10Why 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. 11For it is written,   
 “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
  and every tongue shall give praise to God.”  
12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

21Peter 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?” 22Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.  
 23“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, 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. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But 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.’ 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon  Pastor Mike Kemper**

**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**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. We pray especially for St. John Lutheran Church in Grayling and their supply pastors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm’s way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering & OFFERING SONG**

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

**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.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**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.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



**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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**communion** \**continuous*

*\*People are welcome to kneel at the altar rail for a time of prayer after they receive their communion elements*

**SongS During Communion**

**“Jesus Loves Me” ELW 595**



**“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” ELW 502**



**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**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 “Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843**



**Dismissal**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presider: Pastor Mike Kemper**

**Musician: Jayne Flanigan**

**Acolyte: Levi Griffin**

**Elder: Buffy Meyers**

**Trustee: Martha Yoder**

**Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard**

**Safety Person:**

**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. **St. John Lutheran Church in Grayling and supply pastors.**

Prayers for our friends, for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. 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.

**This week at Zion:**

* Women’s Circle at 1PM, Tuesday, September 19
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, September 20

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **Door Locking Policy:** Our door locking policy relies on having a volunteer(s) each Sunday to serve as the Safety Person of the Day. On Sundays where no one has volunteered, if someone arrives at church and is willing to be the Safety Person of the Day, we will follow the door locking policy. If no one steps forward to serve as the Safety Person of the Day, the doors will not be locked as there will be no one to monitor the church cell phone and let late arrivals into the church. Please consider volunteering for this important duty
* **Fellowship meeting - September 24** The Fellowship Committee will be meeting on Sunday, September 24 after church. Please join us to discuss coffee  fellowship and other upcoming events.
* **LWR Action Team Project** : Thank you to everyone who donated items or money for personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Also thank you to all who helped assemble the 49 kits and to Thrivent Financial for the $250 grant. In October, the kits will be displayed in our sanctuary and then packed and taken to a Lutheran School in Wyoming where they will be loaded onto a semi-truck and taken to Maryland. They are then sent overseas to many different countries. There are Live Generously t-shirts on a table in the Fellowship Hall. They are also from Thrivent.  Please help yourselves to them. We have been making kits for many years and are blessed we could make them again this year too.
* **Labor Day Weekend** **Thank You**: Zion went above and beyond this past weekend to help our community celebrate the Labor Day Weekend. A tremendous thank you to everyone who helped with all the events. It could not have happened without everyone’s involvement. Our float, “God Cares “fur” You,” was well received, we won first place and $25 for our Evangelism budget. Doug and Judy MacKenzie were honored during a lovely reception following the parade. Kids flocked to shoot cross-bows and try their hand at putt-putt golf. On Sunday, we served up Rootbeer floats earning $320 to benefit the Woodland Youth Basement Association. Again, thank you all for helping to make this happen.
* **Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee has interviewed one candidate. This candidate is no longer available. Our search will continue as the Synod Office sends us candidates, who show interest.
* **ZLCW Vote** It was an unanimous vote to send $5000 for a refrigerator. It was a very close vote on what to purchase, but more votes were for the purchase of a commercial refrigerator. The Board will be acting on this.
* **Lakewood Community Dinner, September 28th** Zion’s next turn to host the community dinner is September 28th. We will need helpers to set-up, serve, clean-up and provide desserts. If you can help, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or let Martha know. The last time Zion hosted, they had a record turnout of 80 people served. Every enjoyed the food and the desserts provided by Zion. Thank you!