**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 15, 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“Come, Ye Disconsolate” ELW 607**



**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.

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.** **Amen.**

**First Reading  Isaiah 25:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah.

1O Lord, you are my God;  
  I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
 for you have done wonderful things,  
  plans formed of old, faithful and sure.  
 2For you have made the city a heap,  
  the fortified city a ruin;  
 the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
  it will never be rebuilt.  
 3Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
  cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
 4For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
  a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
  a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
 When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
  5the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
 you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
  the song of the ruthless was stilled.  
 6On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
  a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
  of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
 7And he will destroy on this mountain  
  the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
  the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
  8he will swallow up death forever.  
 Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
  and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
  for the Lord has spoken.  
 9It will be said on that day,  
  Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
  This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
  let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 23**

1The Lord**|** is my shepherd;  
  I shall not **|** be in want.  
 2**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures**  
  **and leads me be- | side still waters.**  
 3You restore my **|** soul, O Lord,  
  and guide me along right pathways **|** for your name’s sake.  
 4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**  
  **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**   
 5You prepare a table before me in the presence **|** of my enemies;  
  you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is **|** running over.  
 6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**  
  **and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

**Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9**

A reading from Philippians.

1My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.  
  
 2I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.  
 4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
  
 8Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Matthew 22:1-14**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.  
 11“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon  Paul Meade**

**Hymn of the Day“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW 773**

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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**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. We pray especially for Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsdale and Rev. Kara Shaw. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God’s vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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.**

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**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.**

**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 “How Great Thou Art” ELW 856**



**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: Paul Meade**

**Musician: Martha Yoder**

**Acolyte: Levi Griffin**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

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

**Safety Person: Naomi Wilson**

**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. **Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsdale and Rev. Kara Shaw**

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:**

* ZLCW Circle, 1 PM, Tuesday, October 17
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, October 18

**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
* **Dana Traub Memorial Hymn Sing**: The Sunfield Museum is hosting a memorial hymn sing in Dana Traub’s honor on November 12 and are looking for people to help. If interested, please call 517-230-6374. The hymn sing is open for all who want to attend.
* **Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee continues to meet and research candidates from the synod. Please pray for wisdom and patients for the Call Committee and the congregation.
* **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.