**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, November 5, 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“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” ELW 244**



**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 God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**First Reading  Micah 3:5-12**

A reading from Micah.

5Thus says the Lord concerning the prophets  
  who lead my people astray,  
 who cry “Peace”  
  when they have something to eat,  
 but declare war against those  
  who put nothing into their mouths.  
 6Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision,  
  and darkness to you, without revelation.  
 The sun shall go down upon the prophets,  
  and the day shall be black over them;  
 7the seers shall be disgraced,  
  and the diviners put to shame;  
 they shall all cover their lips,  
  for there is no answer from God.  
 8But as for me, I am filled with power,  
  with the spirit of the Lord,  
  and with justice and might,  
 to declare to Jacob his transgression  
  and to Israel his sin.  
  
 9Hear this, you rulers of the house of Jacob  
  and chiefs of the house of Israel,  
 who abhor justice  
  and pervert all equity,  
 10who build Zion with blood  
  and Jerusalem with wrong!  
 11Its rulers give judgment for a bribe,  
  its priests teach for a price,  
  its prophets give oracles for money;  
 yet they lean upon the Lord and say,  
  “Surely the Lord is with us!  
  No harm shall come upon us.”  
 12Therefore because of you  
  Zion shall be plowed as a field;  
 Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins,  
  and the mountain of the house a wooded height.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 43**

1Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an un- **|** godly people;  
  deliver me from the deceitful **|** and the wicked.  
 2**For you are the God of my strength; why have you re- | jected me,**  
  **and why do I wander in such gloom while the enemy op- | presses me?**  
 3Send out your light and your truth, that **|** they may lead me,  
  and bring me to your holy hill and to your **|** sanctuary;  
 4**that I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my | joy and gladness;**  
  **and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O | God my God.**  
 5**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquiet- | ed within me?**  
  **Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one who is my help | and my God.**

**Second Reading 1Thessalonians 2:9-13**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

9You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. 11As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, 12urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.  
 13We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God’s word, which is also at work in you believers.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Matthew 23:1-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; 3therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. 4They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. 5They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. 6They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, 7and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. 8But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. 9And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. 10Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. 11The greatest among you will be your servant. 12All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon  Pastor Jim Morgan**

**Hymn of the Day“Just as I Am, without One Plea” ELW 592**



**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**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, encourage and uphold your church around the world. We thank you for your Word, which we receive as holy. Lead bishops, pastors, deacons, and all members of your church in lives worthy of you. We pray especially for St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids and Rev. Galen Knutson. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, revive your creation where it is neglected, misused, or abused. Bolster advocates in eco-justice organizations. Nurture endeavors that aid communities affected by hazardous waste, poor air, and polluted waters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, accompany our nation as it prepares for elections. Protect voters, voting officials, poll workers, and journalists. Guide leaders around the world, that fair and wise decisions show care for all, especially those society has forgotten or mistreated. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing One, bring relief to those carrying heavy burdens. We pray for those in difficult home situations, for foster children, and for all who are in jails or prison. Strengthen those burdened by chronic pain, grief, or other illness. We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, and Syria. Be their rest and comfort. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Welcoming God, accompany those in new and unfamiliar places who need an invitation to community. We pray especially for any who have recently moved to start their first year of college, a new job, or a missionary position in another land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you unite all the faithful in at your heavenly feast. We remember your saints gathered in your eternal presence, especially all who have died in the past year. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**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**

**“Blessed Assurance” ELW 638**



**“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” ELW 494**

A sheet music with text and notes

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**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 “When Peace like a River” ELW 785**



**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 Jim Morgan**

**Musician: Jayne Flanigan**

**Acolyte: Levi Griffin**

**Elder: Jolene Griffin**

**Trustee: Jerry Engle**

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

**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. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids and Rev. Galen Knutson**

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:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, November 8
* Women’s Fellowship, 9 AM, Thursday, November 9

**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
* **Sock Collection:** The Lakewood Community Council has let us know they are in need of socks for the Christmas baskets. Socks are needed for all ages but especially for adults. There will be a collection set up soon for donations. Please help us provide new socks for those in need this Christmas. If you have questions, please talk with Janine Frizzell or any member of evangelism. Thank you!
* **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.
* **Thankoffering Service**: Sunday, November 19th is the ZLCW Thankoffering Service. Please look for Thankoffering envelopes in your church mail boxes soon. Our service will have many of our ladies and girls serving in our worship. Chloe Makley is speaking on her work in Thailand. We look forward to seeing you at this uplifting service.
* **Church Musician Opening**: We have an opening for the position of church musician for two Sundays a month starting in January 2024. The musician would play liturgy and hymns for our Sunday worship services. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in sharing their musical gifts with Zion, please contact Buffy Meyers. It is a paid position.
* **Call Committee Update:** The Call Committee continues to meet and research candidates from the synod. Please pray for wisdom and patience for the Call Committee and the congregation.