**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 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“For the Beauty of the Earth” ELW 879**



**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 of justice and love, you illumine 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  Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos.

18Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!  
  Why do you want the day of the Lord?  
 It is darkness, not light;  
  19as if someone fled from a lion,  
  and was met by a bear;  
 or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
  and was bitten by a snake.  
 20Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,  
  and gloom with no brightness in it?  
 21I hate, I despise your festivals,  
  and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
 22Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
  I will not accept them;  
 and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
  I will not look upon.  
 23Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
  I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
 24But let justice roll down like waters,  
  and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 70**

1Be pleased, O God, to de- **|** liver me;  
  O Lord, make **|** haste to help me.  
 2**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**  
  **let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.**   
 3Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat **|** over me  
  turn back because **|** of their shame.  
 4**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**  
  **let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the Lord!”**  
 5But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- **|** ly, O God.  
  You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, **|** do not tarry

**Second Reading 1Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

13We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**



**Gospel  Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon  Pastor Jim Couser**

**Hymn of the Day“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” ELW 634**



**CREED**

**Joining with the church in all times and places, let us affirm our faith.**

**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.*

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. We pray especially for Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids and Rev. Kevin Sullivan. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day.

We pray especially for all those affected by gun violence, Ukraine, Sudan, Turkey, Syria, and the Middle East. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. 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**

**“Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793**



**“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW 712**



**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 “On Our Way Rejoicing” ELW 537**

A sheet of music with text

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**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 Couser**

**Musician: Jayne Flanigan**

**Acolyte: Kole Hokanson**

**Elder: Dan Utterback**

**Trustee: Mike Johnson**

**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. **Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids and Rev. Kevin Sullivan**

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, Syria, and the Middle East. 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:**

* Coffee Fellowship today, following service
* Dana Traub Memorial Hymn Sing, today, 12-2 at the Sunfield Museum
* Council Meeting, 6:30 PM Tuesday, November 14
* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM Wednesday, November 15
* Free Christmas tree farm, Friday and Saturday, November 17-18
* Thankoffering service, next Sunday, November 19
* Community Thanksgiving service, 7PM next Sunday, November 19

**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
* **Poinsettias:**  Sign up sheets are out for poinsettias. $14.95 each, no bows, choice of color. In honor of or memory of loved ones. Please sign up by Nov. 26. Contact Mary Makley with any questions.
* **Coffee Fellowship:** Sunday, December 3 after church will be a potluck and Advent fellowship time activities. Please sign up if you want to do activities so we can have enough craft products.
* **Christmas Baskets:** Needed this year are prayers, monetary contributions, hats, warm winter mittens/gloves, socks, and children gifts for 14 children. All donations need to be in by November 26. The Sunday School Action Team will be wrapping gifts that Sunday. Volunteers are needed from 9-12 each day from Tuesday through Saturday, Dec 12-16, for various jobs. Please see bulletin board for schedule. Contact Claude Smith with questions.
* **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!
* **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.