

May 21, 2023 • Ascension of Our Lord
9:00 and 11:30am



Zion ⁺ *lutheran
church*

WELCOME TO ZION

When we gather for worship, we're receptive to God's word and we rejoice in God's grace through song, prayer, and Holy Communion. The history of Christian worship is rich with rituals formed by generations. These traditions, prayers, and pastoral teachings help connect our lives with Christ. In our daily lives, we show God's love by serving our community, both locally and globally.

We are a group of believers seeking to respond to Christ's call to worship and serve, even as we wrestle with the big questions of life. We want you to know that you and your questions, faith, and doubts are welcome here!

HOW WE WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace: the Word of God and the Sacraments. From the table of Holy Communion where Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and care for those in need. Our worship follows this pattern in four parts: Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. By its very nature, Lutheran worship is participatory and the service is contained within this bulletin. Worship leaders guide us through the service and our responses are printed in **bold type**.

We welcome children in our worship services! If needed, a nursery is available down the hallway past the restrooms. The restrooms contain changing tables, as needed.

Throughout the service, members of Zion's music ministry offer their talents as an offering to God. Please receive their musical gifts as a time for prayer, contemplation, or

praise of God rather than a performance to be applauded, so that we may worship God throughout our time here together.

ASCENSION SUNDAY

Each year, forty days after Easter, we remember the Ascension of Our Lord (we move it to a Sunday to remember it as a community together). The story of the Ascension of Jesus is found three places in Scripture - we will hear two of them (from Acts and Luke) today. Acts 1 tells us that Jesus "presented himself alive to [the disciples] by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." Eventually, after these forty days, Jesus would "ascend into heaven" and is "seated at the right hand of the Father" - this is what we proclaim together in the Apostles' Creed.

But God does not leave us on our own. Next Sunday is Pentecost, the day upon which we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to those first followers of Jesus. The Spirit was with them; the Spirit is with us, too.

HOLY BAPTISM TODAY

At the 9:00 service today we receive

- Kenneth Hale Kretzschmer and
- Jackson Lee Kretzschmer, children of Jennifer and Kevin Kretzschmer. Their sponsors are Karyn and Henry Netardus and Joanna and Mel Arviso.

Please note on your attendance slip if you are visiting for the baptisms.

Zion Lutheran Church

9944 Leslie Road • San Antonio, Texas 78254 • 210-688-3090 • zion@zionsa.org

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

9:00

Carillon Fanfare by Paul Bryan

11:30

Great Is the Lord arranged by Michael Ryan

Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

9:00AM HOLY BAPTISM

Statement of Faith

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

**catholic: universal*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks..... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever,

Amen.

Welcome

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's
creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

11:30AM THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Please rise, as you are able.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

We Know That Christ is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God,
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stamford, 1852-1924
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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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:1-11

Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

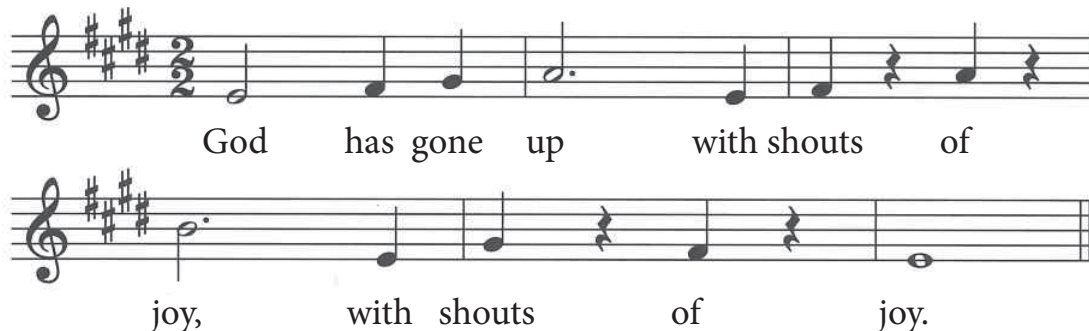
⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 49

Refrain

Michel Guimont



God has gone up with shouts of
joy, with shouts of joy.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. R.

God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns enthroned in holiness. R.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

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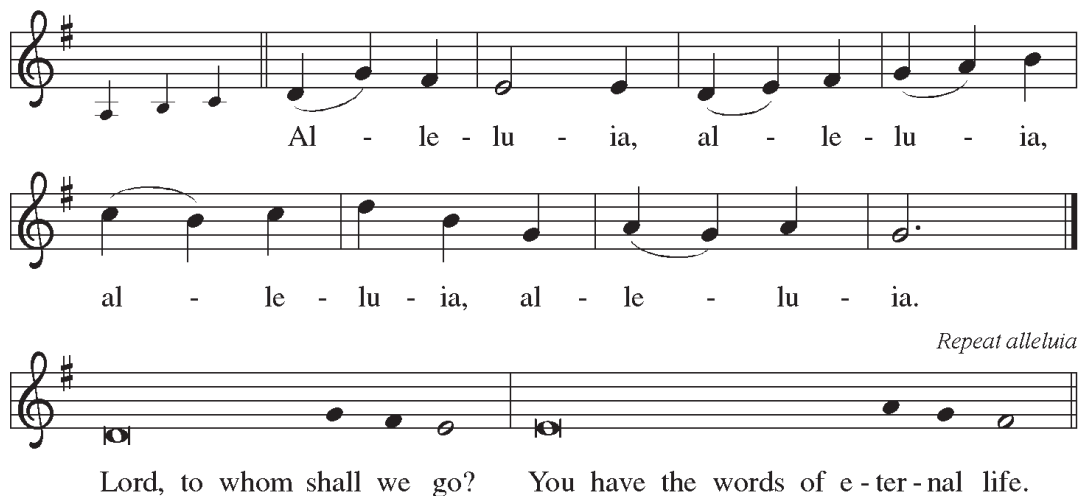
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:44-53

The Ascension
Spark Children's Bible Page 498

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



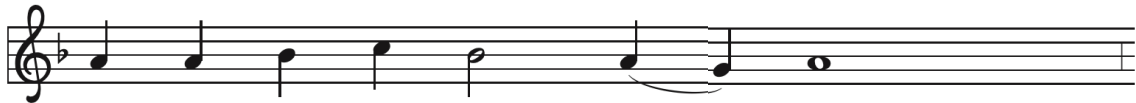
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



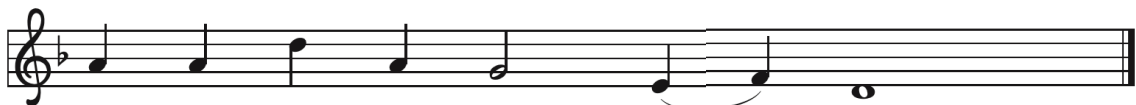
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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11:30 APOSTLES' CREED

Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' 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.

**catholic: universal*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check the back pages of this bulletin for additional announcements.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.

OFFERING

At this time, we give our offerings with thanksgiving to God. These offerings support the mission and ministry of Zion, including the care of those in need. To give online, please visit ZionSA.org. Children are invited to come forward during the music and place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel area (near the Sacristy door). During the offering music, the pastor sets the table with the elements for Holy Communion. Please know that this is the Lord's table, and all are welcome to receive Communion.

OFFERING MUSIC

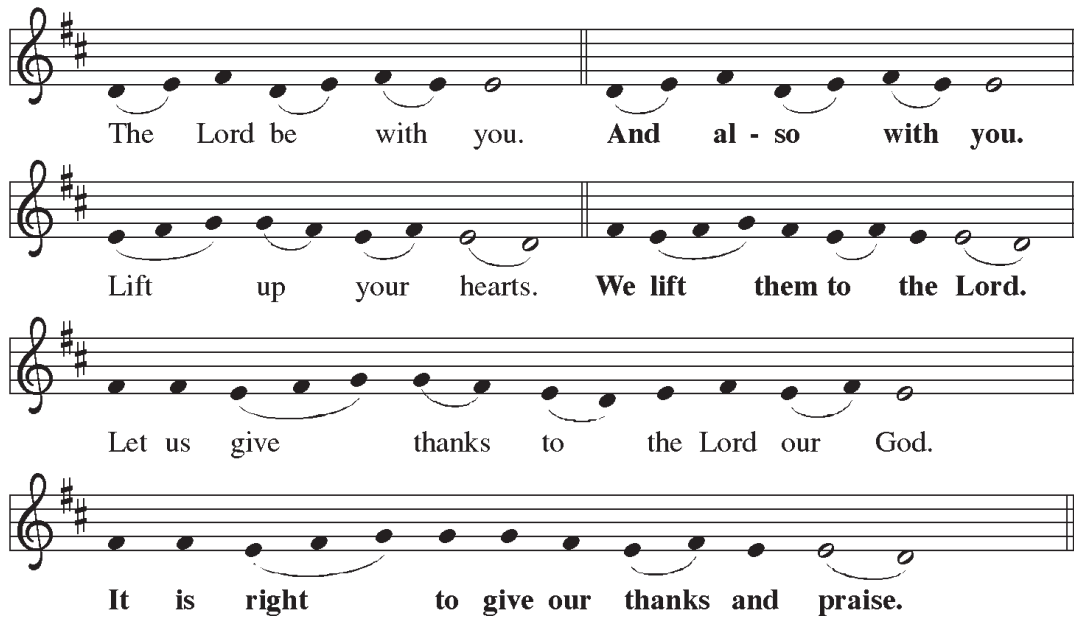
9:00	<i>Let All the Angels from "Messiah" by G.F. Handel</i>	Chancel Choir
11:30	<i>I Exalt Thee arranged by Peggy Betcher</i>	Handbells

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self. We give you thanks for these gifts. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

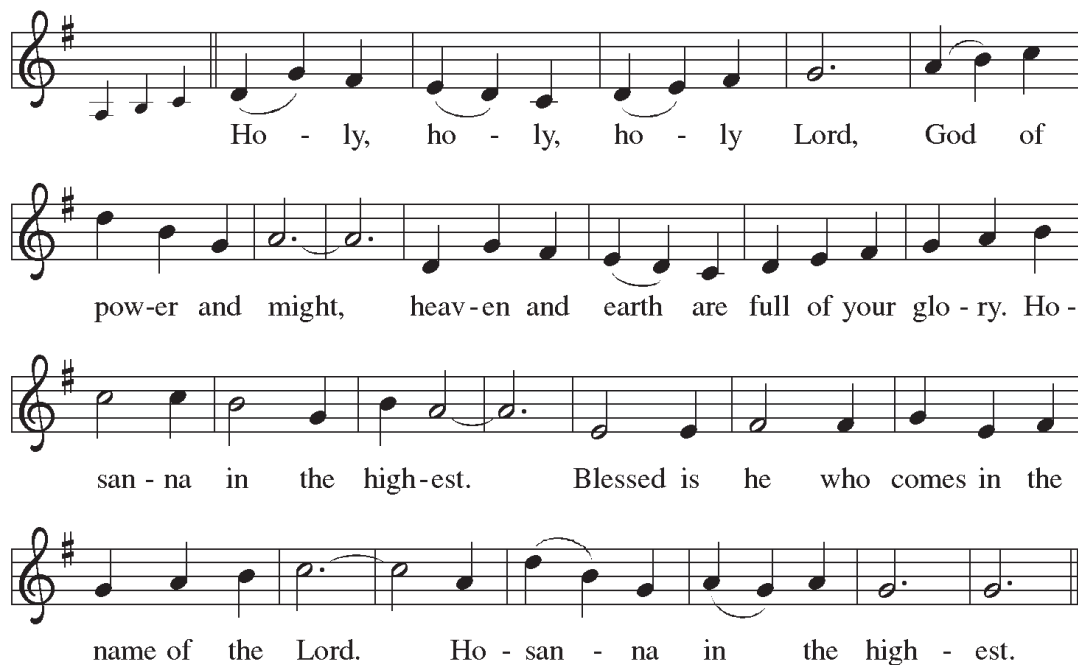
GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who, enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, ✠ your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus has taught us:

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

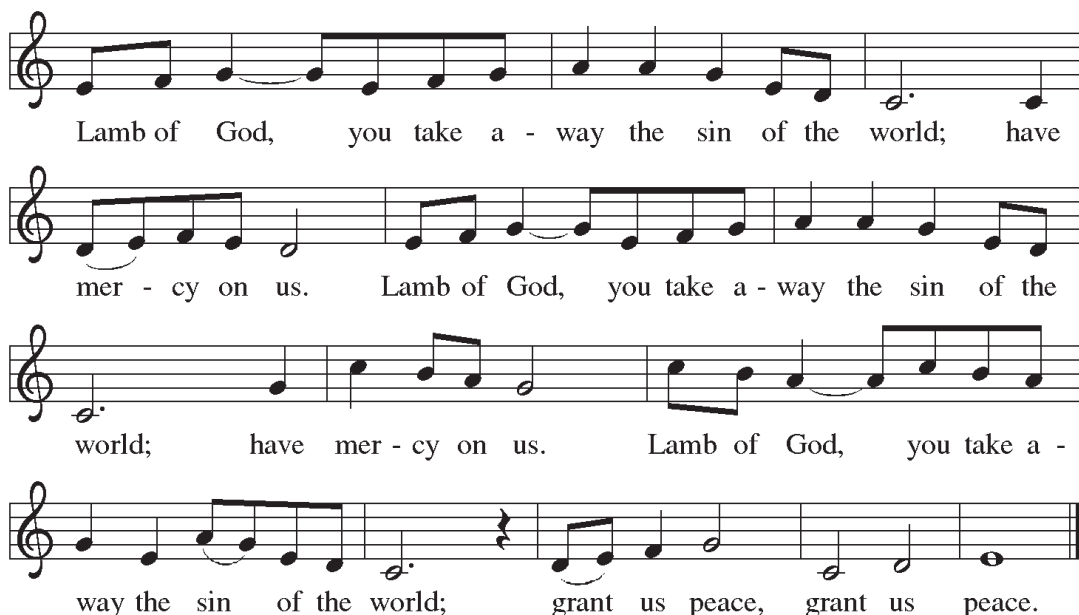
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes all to this holy meal! Children who commune should be assisted by adults who are with them. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray for any who are unable to drink wine. After taking Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00

Beautiful Savior arranged by Anna Laura Page

Chancel Choir

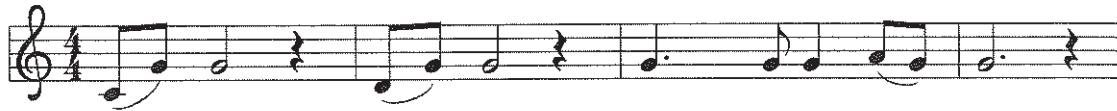
11:30

We Bow Down arranged by Peggy Betcher

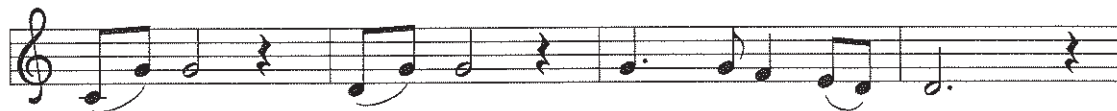
Handbells

COMMUNION HYMN

Blessing, Honor, and Glory



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.



Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.



Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!



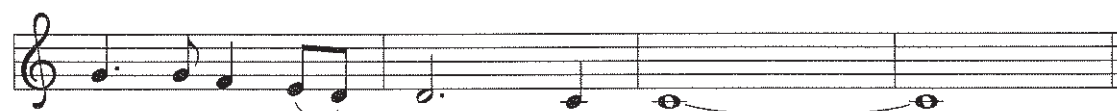
Seat-ed up-on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!



God! Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry to the Lamb. Ho - ly, righ - teous,



wor - thy is the Lamb of God.

Text: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
Music: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
Text and music © 1998 Word Music, L.C. and Maranatha! Music, admin. Music Services, Inc.

After communion, we rise and share in blessing and prayer.

BLESSING

May the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

BENEDICTION

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 HYMN *on next page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesus Christ Reigns as King setting by Ernst Pepping

AVAILABLE FOR PRAYER

Immediately following each service, Stephen Ministers are often available to pray with you at the altar rail. All prayers and conversations are confidential.

SENDING HYMN

Lord You Gave the Great Commission

1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you

preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,

and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the

to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain

With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



*Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar*

Sunday, May 21

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation End-of-Year Event	10:15	Family Life Center
New Member Class #3 (location change)	10:15	Conference Room
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Auditions for Addams Family	2pm	Family Life Center

Tuesday, May 23

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanc Balcony
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, May 24

High School/Elementary Mentoring	7:15am	Nichols Elementary
Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Ed Bldg Craft Rm
Midweek Worship Services	1:00 & 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, May 25

Weight Watchers Mtg	9:30	Church 2
Fiesta Flutes Rehearsal	7pm	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Training	7pm	FLC 101
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	FLC 202

Saturday, May 27

Weight Watchers Meetings	8:30 & 10:30	Church 2
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Sunday, May 28

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Faith Formation Hour (last)	10:15	Details next page
Adult Class: Week Ahead	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild
Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard
Mona McQuien, Ruth Medbury
Karen Sturdivant

Lay Readers
9:00
Kevin Hoag
11:30
LeShea Clabough

Cantor
Amy Mikulski

Communion Servers
9:00
Karen Cavallin, Allen Cockrell
11:30
Kevin McGee, LeShea Clabough

Livestream
Steve Johnson
David Umlang

Sound
Scott Van Doren

May Ushers
9:00
Rachel & Stuart Williams
Linda & Bruce Krueger
11:30
Pam Gammage, Caleb DeHart
Kim and Mike DeHart
Chris Berg

Sunday Faith Formation

Begins at 10:15am

End-of-the-Year event today in the Family Life Center and picnic patio.

Adult Class

Resumes June 18

10:15 with Pastor Kathi, in the Fellowship Hall. Topic to be announced.

Two Midweek Services

Wednesdays at 1pm and 6:30pm in Church 1

Simple communion worship services in Zion's historic chapel.

CAMP HOPE

SUMMER 2023 • TRAVELERS

June 19-23 and/or
June 26-30

Check your Z-Mail
or scan this

QR code for details
and registration

form.

Students entering Kindergarten through 7th grade are eligible.



Camp Hope



2023 Communion Class

Youth who completed the Communion class include

Eric Bauer

Nathan Ikenna

Sydney Bowman

Ryan Jacob

Santiago Garcia

Jackson Kretzschmar

Ben Hooke

Erick Ogburn

Summer Theatre Camp 2023

June 5-16 for Grades K-12

Registration and audition form is available at ZionSA.org, or from the church office during business hours.



Zion Summer Theatre Camp presents

GUYS AND DOLLS!

Thursday June 15 and Friday June 16, at 7:30pm

All you *guys and dolls* are invited to *sit down stop rockin' the boat* in the Family Life Center. This version of the musical is crafted for younger performers, but with all the verve and moxie of the original. You'll love it *a bushel and a peck!*

Both Theatre Camp performances of *Guys and Dolls* are free to the public. Refreshments will be available at the *Hot Box* concession tables.

Dinner Out at Surfing Crab

Thursday, June 1 at 6:30pm

Dinner Out invites all adults to meet this month at Surfing Crab Cajun Restaurant, 9837 I-10 West at Wurzbach in the Colonade. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30.

RSVP by May 29 to Jim or Sandy Chillstrom. Call the church office if you need their contact info.

Habitat for Humanity Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, June 4



Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of Zion invite everyone for breakfast on June 4 in the Family Life Center, 8:00-11:30am! No tickets needed - just drop in. A free-will offering basket will be at the door, along with door prizes and other goodies. A Habitat for Humanity representative will be on hand to talk with you about this organization. Please come enjoy food and fellowship for a good cause! Sponsorship provided by Thrivent.

Zion's Habitat for Humanity goal this year is \$5,000. We are currently about \$1,300 shy of that goal. Help Zion help others achieve their goal of home ownership.

Women of Zion

Join in activities and fellowship with other women in the congregation. Scan the QR code to get on the mailing list, or send an e-mail to WOZ@zionsa.org.



WOZ@zionsa.org

Women of Zion Events

- Tuesday June 13, WOZ Bible Study & More. Fellowship, service projects with a Bible study on the second Tuesday at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!

CONTACT



zionsa.org



[zionsa](https://www.facebook.com/zionsa)



[@zionsatx](https://www.instagram.com/zionsatx)



zion@zionsa.org



210-688-3090



9944 Leslie Road, 78254



8:30am-5:00pm
Friday close at 3:00pm

STAFF DAYS OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday
kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Monday
dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday
rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday
theatre@zionsa.org

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Blessed Change for San Antonio Food Bank

May 28 in the Narthex

Zion is collecting food all through

May, and next Sunday we're topping off the month with a Blessed Change Collection for the SA Food Bank.

Look for the water well in the narthex and drop in your loose change, folding money

and checks, or use this QR code to get to Zion's donations web page.

Specify Food Bank.



Food Bank Vanco



Help Fight Hunger in San Antonio!

Feed SA is a citywide movement to fight hunger alongside the San Antonio Food Bank. With your help we will provide meals for 200,000+ children who are at risk of facing hunger this summer.

Zion will collect food, diapers and pet food throughout the month of May. Bring your donations to the collection bins or barrels in the narthex and gazebo.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Clip & save for your next grocery run

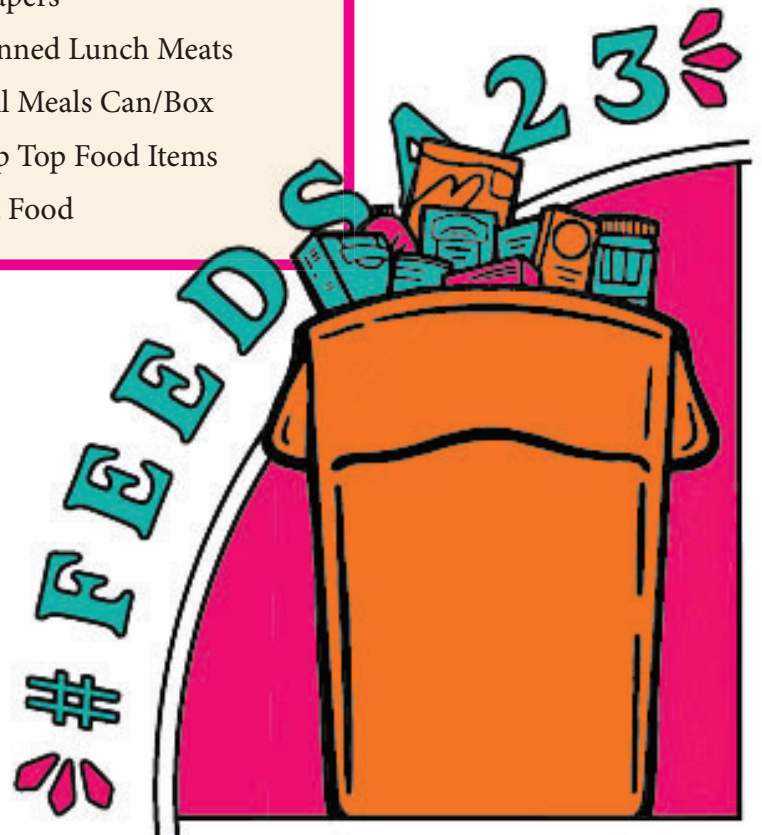
- ▶ Peanut Butter
- ▶ Cereal
- ▶ Tuna
- ▶ Beans
- ▶ Rice
- ▶ Mac & Cheese
- ▶ Chili & Soup
- ▶ Baby Food
- ▶ Diapers
- ▶ Canned Lunch Meats
- ▶ Full Meals Can/Box
- ▶ Pop Top Food Items
- ▶ Pet Food

Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays at 9:30

The Crafty Bunch meets in the Education Building on the west side of Leslie Road. Enter at the double doors, behind Churches 1 and 2. The craft room is the first classroom on the right.

Bring your own project to work on, or check what's in the cabinets.





**Zion is a
Stephen Ministry Church!**
Stephen Ministry Training Update
Please pray for our Stephen Ministers as they continue to enhance their caregiving skills. Here is what they are learning this week:

SESSION ELEVEN – CARING BETWEEN VISITS: CAREGIVING AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

While most of their caregiving will take place in person, occasionally Stephen Ministers may also care for people over the telephone or Internet. In this session, our Stephen Minister trainees learn when using technology is appropriate and how to provide care most effectively over the phone or computer.

If you would like to request help from a Stephen Minister, contact LeShea Clabough by calling the Zion office, 210-688-3090

Quilting for LWR - Summer Schedule

First and Third Thursdays at 9:30am

If you don't sew, consider learning some basics this summer with LWR Quilters! If you DO sew, join in to help create simple quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The durable quilts we make are sent all over the world to be used as bedding, room dividers, and shelter.

If you can't make it to the quilting meetings, quilt tops can be sewn at home at your convenience. Fabric is provided. Contact Diane Stewart through the church office. Weekly meetings resume in September.

*Your
generosity
empowers
Zion's ministry*

From Sunday morning worship to feeding families for the holidays, collecting clothing for local charity or relief supplies shipped hundreds of miles, to friendships fostered worldwide with simple hand stitches.

Because you kindly share your time, lend your skills, and support your ministry financially, Zion's impact reaches far beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. On behalf of everyone we're able to help, thank you for your contribution.

For more ways to support Zion's mission, scan this QR code.



**MAY 21, 2023
ASCENSION OF
OUR LORD**



Empowered to forgive in Jesus' name.

ASCENSION DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ascension Day observances.

Luke 24:44-53

The ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven

Psalms 47

God rules the nations

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul's prayer for the church

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASCENSION DAY

*And he [Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." **Luke 24:46-47 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ascension Day:

God of power and might, free us to turn away from selfishness and to love you and others in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food, strengthen us to be witnesses of your love in the world through Christ Jesus, our ascended Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

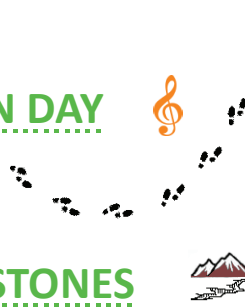
May God give you wisdom to be a witness of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.



MAY 21, 2023

HYMN FOR ASCENSION DAY

*A Hymn of Glory
Let Us Sing!*



taking
faith
home

ASCENSION DAY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you see people using power in the world around you?
- How does Jesus' power free us to care for others and God's creation?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 24:44-53.

The books of Luke and Acts are written by the same author (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1). Acts 1 begins where Luke 24 ends, with the ascension. Although the ascension of Jesus can seem like Jesus is leaving his followers behind, he is actually elevating the ministry of the church by connecting the power of God to Jesus' followers. Jesus' ascension empowers all disciples to be witnesses to Jesus. That witness will be understood through the story of Jesus passed down through the ages and interpreted through the scriptures. It is Jesus who "opened their minds to understand the scriptures" (v. 45), and it is through Jesus that the scriptures are understood. The Bible interpreted through the life of Jesus gives us the fundamental message of repentance and forgiveness. We witness to Jesus by speaking of life as a movement of repentance that is away from ourselves and toward God. This new life empowers us to forgive in the name of Jesus, the one whose death, resurrection, and ascension sends us out to care for a world in need.

Discuss: How do you give witness to Jesus in the community and the world?

Pray: **Almighty God, give us courage and strength to be your witnesses of repentance and forgiveness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this day, how might you serve others with the power of forgiveness in the name of Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Jesus spent the last days of his appearance on earth walking and talking with the disciples. On this Ascension Day, invite others to take a walk outside with you. While you are walking, think about Jesus ascending into the clouds to heaven. Find a place to sit and take time to gaze at the sky. Look for clouds and name the shapes you can see. Ask others to explain how they would have felt if they witnessed Jesus' ascension. Then say: **Alleluia! Jesus has ascended! Alleluia!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org