

June 25, 2023 • Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 and 11:30 am



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 hall 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.

GREEN SEASON

The Sundays following Pentecost take us through the summer months and into the fall. These many months take us through many of the stories during the ministry of Jesus. We will also spend a significant portion of the Green Season hearing portions of Paul's letter to the Roman church. The purpose of these readings is to encourage us to grow in our faith in Christ - like the growth of a green plant - little by little, each day.

ON THE COVER

Mary of the Burning Bush

Miller, Mary Jane. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59658>.

Original source:

Mary Jane Miller, <https://www.millericons.com/>.

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

The God of Abraham Praise, setting by John Carter

WELCOME

Pastor Kathi Johnson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and 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.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

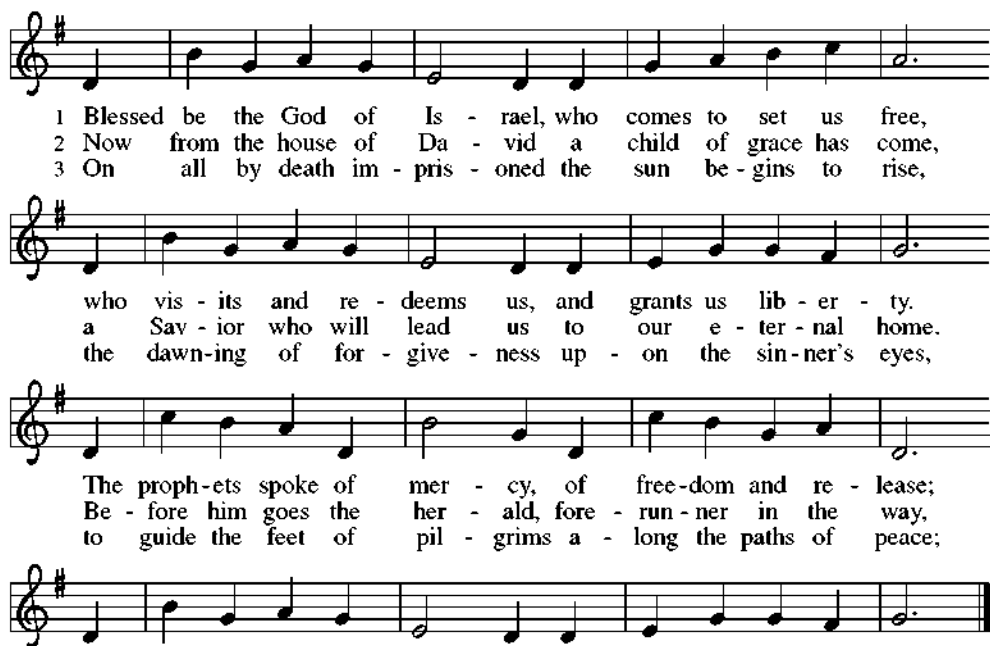
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 HYMN

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,
who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,
The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;
God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, based on Luke 1:68-79
Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Text © 1973 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company.
Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and

had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

PSALM 18:3

Campers sing first time through, congregation joins in second time.

I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted

*Words and music by Michael O'Shields
Copyright 1981 Universal Music Corp.*

SECOND READING: ACTS 2:22-32

²²You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

²⁹Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

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 1:26-33

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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

Please be seated.

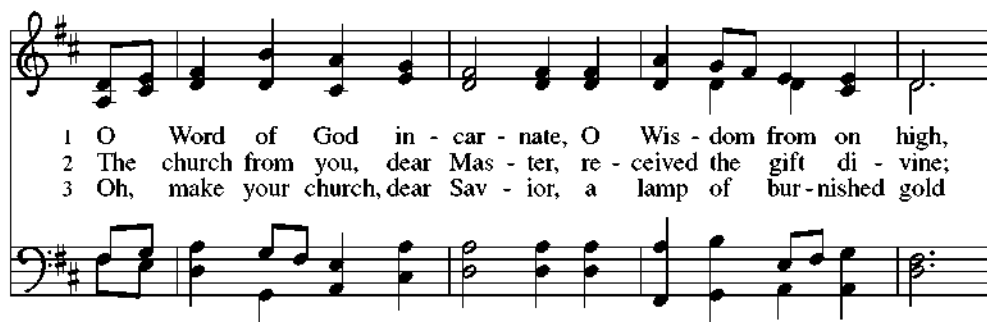
SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim

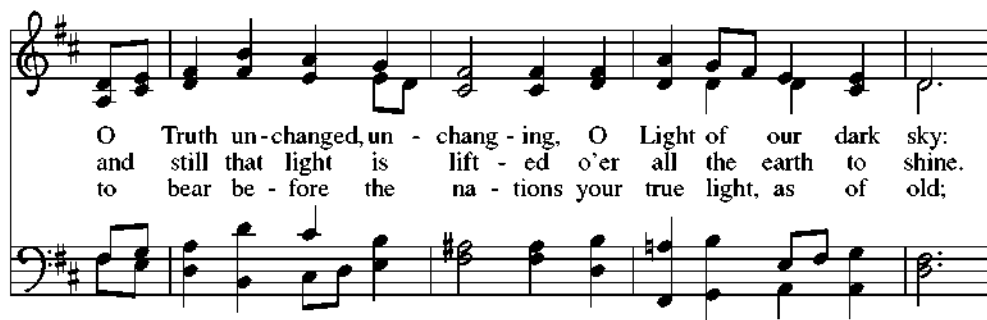
Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

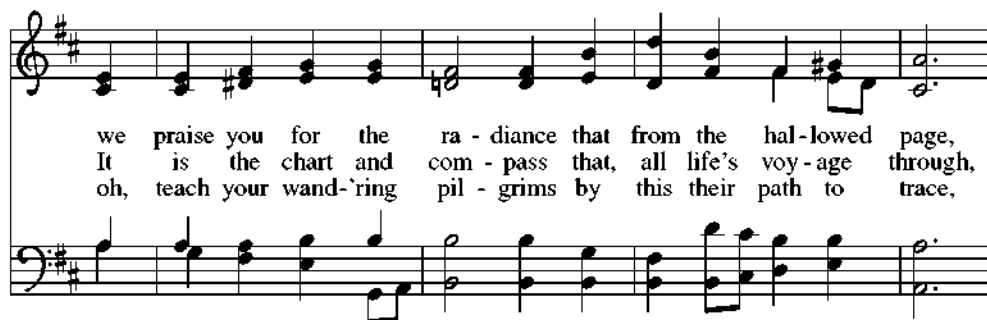
O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.
Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

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 by the Holy Spirit, 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 power of the Holy Spirit, 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

Create in Me a Clean Heart, setting by Sharon Bradimore

Please rise, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, ✠ your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus 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

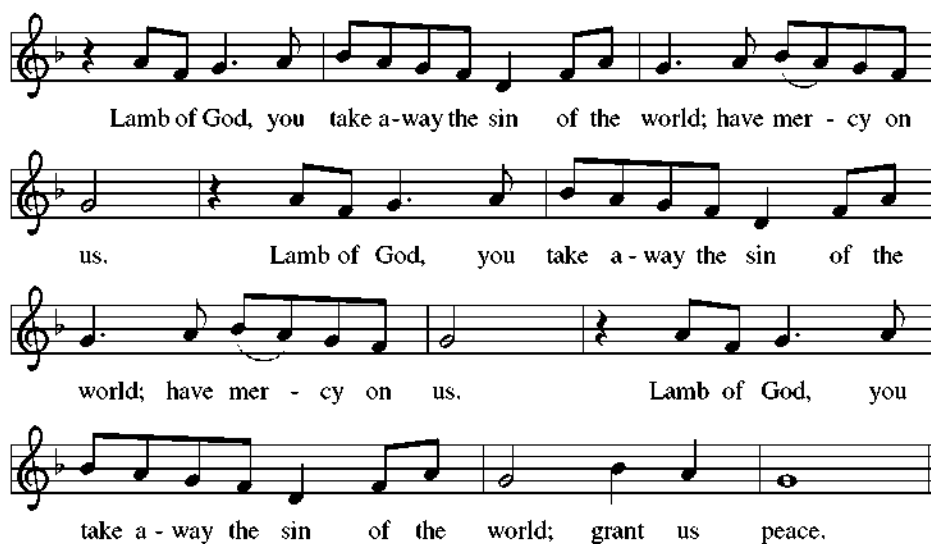
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Here Is Bread

C G/B Am E⁷ F C/G G
 1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us,
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us,
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us,
 he is with us. Break the bread, taste the wine,
 he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
 he is with us. We'll pro - claim till he comes
 Christ is with us here.
 feast on Je - sus here.
 Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
Refrain
 FM⁷ F Em⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷
 In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is
 B \flat /C F F \sharp dim⁷ Em⁷ A⁷(\sharp 5)
 life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it,
 Dm⁷ G⁷ C
 Christ is with us here.

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. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata, by Johann Pachelbel

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.

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Alyssa Brodbeck,
Mary Jo Goldenbaum,
Chris and Don Jones, Suzi Lockamy,
Belynda McKenzie,
Susan and Joe Noonan, Kathy Null

Lay Readers

9:00

Ameya Steubing

11:30

Gabriel Valentine

Communion Servers

9:00

Laura Knoll, Amy Swanson

11:30

Audrey DeHart, Tyler Duysen

Livestream

Steve Johnson, Kevin McGee

Sound

Scott VanDoren

June Ushers

9:00

Bonnie Harrell, Brinkley Harrell,

Brad McClain, Bev Rosel,

Amy Swanson,

David Umlang

11:30

Pam Gammage, Chris Berg,

Caleb DeHart, Audrey DeHart,

Kim and Mike DeHart

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Sunday, June 25

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Summer Adult Class	10:15	MC 1&2
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, June 26

Camp Hope Week 2	7am	Various Rooms
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Tuesday, June 27

Camp Hope Week 2	7am	Various Rooms
Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, June 28

Camp Hope Week 2	7am	Various Rooms
Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Midweek Worship Services	1:00& 6:30	Church 1/Chapel
AA Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, June 29

Camp Hope Week 2	7am	Various Rooms
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Training Class	7pm	MC 7

Friday, June 30

Camp Hope Week 2	7am	Various Rooms
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Saturday, July 1

Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
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Sunday, July 2

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Summer Adult Class	10:15	MC 1&2
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Wednesday Worship Taking a Summer Break

Our Wednesday services will go on summer break for the months of July and August. We will resume these mid-week worship services on September 6.

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.

Women of Zion Events

- Tuesday July 11, 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!



WOZ@zionsa.org

Zion's Dinner Out

Thursday, July 6, 6:30pm Seating

You are invited to join in fellowship and try something a bit different—breakfast for dinner at Kerbey Lane.

RSVP by June 29th to Dave or Doris Newman at 210-859-7860 or ddnewman@mac.com.

Zion Theatre Group's Addams Family

Tickets for the Zion Theatre Group's production of The Addams Family are now on sale. Performances are July 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23.

To purchase show tickets, go to ztg.booktix.com. To order dinner seats, email Sammy at theatre@zionsa.org. For in-person sales, Sammy will be in the gazebo today and July 2.

Please review your date and seat selection carefully before placing your order. With online sales, exchanges and refunds are not available.

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 DAY OFF

Pastor Kathi - Monday

kjohnson@zionsa.org

Pastor Dan - Friday

dheim@zionsa.org

Rob Mikulski - Monday

rmikulski@zionsa.org

Sammy Mikulski - Monday

theatre@zionsa.org

Staff Update

During the summer, if you have information for the bulletin and/ or Z-mail, please contact Megan via email, Publications@ZionSA.org. You can also phone Karen Sturdivant in our Church Office, 210-688-3090.

Summer Adult Class

Starts Today, June 25, 10:15am
For three weeks this summer, join Pr. Kathi for a look at the book of Romans. We hear lots of readings from Romans this summer, so this is a great chance to learn more about this letter Paul wrote so long ago.

Meets June 25 and July 2 & 9 in the Ministry Center - MC 1 & 2.

Interested in Serving in Worship?

Come to Worship Camp!

We welcome hundreds of people to our campus on Sunday mornings, and we'd love for you to help provide that welcome! If you'd like to serve as an usher, communion server, and/or lay reader, come to Worship Camp. We'll meet three weeks in July at 10:30am - July 16, 23, and 30. Pick the date that works for you! This is for everyone - whether you've been serving a while or are learning something new. Questions? Reach out to Pr. Kathi via email or phone.

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CAMP HOPE SUMMER 2023 • TRAVELERS

Week 2: 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. We have room for additional campers in Week 2, so if you haven't registered yet, you still can.



Camp Hope



Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministry Training Update

Here is what our Stephen Ministers are studying this week. Continue to pray for our Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers as Stephen Minister training nears completion:

SESSION SIXTEEN—BRINGING THE CARING RELATIONSHIP TO A CLOSE

Stephen Ministry relationships go on until the crisis is past, the need for care is diminished (not necessarily completely over), and the care receiver is able to cope on his or her own. In this session our Stephen Ministers explore how to know when it is time to bring closure to a caring relationship—and how to do so in a healthy way.

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

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.



Blessed Change today supporting Pathways Youth and Family Services

Look for the wishing well in the narthex and drop in cash or checks, or use the QR code next to the well to donate. Pathways provides foster care and adoption services across the state of Texas, caring for our communities by taking care of our children.



A photograph of pink oleander flowers with long, dark green leaves, set against a clear blue sky. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the leaves are long and narrow with prominent veins.

Summer Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3 tells us. And I think we can all firmly agree that the season of summer has arrived here in San Antonio, Texas. For those of us who aren't fans of the heat, it can be easy to hope that this particular season passes quickly so we can get to the cooler weather once again.

And yet, this year, I'm trying to lean into the summer's heat a bit more than usual. I'm finding ways to spend some time outside (safely!). I'm listening to the many birds sing, morning and night, when I'm outside with the dogs. I'm finding time to work in the yard in the cooler times of day. And even in the heat of the afternoon, sometimes I step outside, just for a few minutes. The summer is showing its particular beauty to me, when I take time to notice.

We're in a season in the church year, too. This "Green Season" we're in right now is a time for us to hear many stories about the teachings and ministry of Jesus. In taking our time through this green season to go through these stories, the hope is we will grow, like a green plant grows. The Green Season doesn't have the sparkle of Christmas or the trumpets of Easter, but it's a time of particular beauty.

What beauty do you see when you take time to notice?

**JUNE 25, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Freed from fear, we live in newness of life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old life and the new
Thursday	Isaiah 12:1-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Friday	Romans 8:9-17	Life in the Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for the power and gift of baptism and our new life in Christ that frees us from fear so that we can be Christ's faithful followers in the world. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, with this gift of food give us strength to overcome our fears and to serve others through the power of Christ's love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love, bless you with mercy all the days of your life. (Psalm 69:16)



JUNE 25, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take My Life,
That I May Be*



taking **+**
faith
home

WEEKLY 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 describe your own life's goals, values and beliefs?
- If someone were to ask you about your faith and what you believe, how would you respond?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 6:1b-11.

Just before this reading, Paul writes: *"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more"* (Romans 5:20b). Paul responds to this statement in Romans 6:1b with an understandable question, *"Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound?"* Then he answers, *"By no means!"* (v. 2a). Paul is emphatic that seeking a life of sin is out of the question. He describes this conviction by using the language of baptism. We are joined with Christ through baptism. In baptism, we die with Christ and are raised with Christ *"so we too might walk in newness of life"* (v. 4b). We are joined to Christ's life. His story of death and resurrection is now our story. We die to a way of living and thinking that finds pleasure in sin and separation from God. The power of sin over our lives dies with Christ through baptism. Our lives are then freed from the power of sin and death to live a new life filled with love and grace for our neighbor and world.

Discuss: What questions do you have about baptism?

Pray: **God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of baptism that binds us to Christ and gives us new life filled with hope, joy, and love for all. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you be freed from fear to joyfully serve those in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"Do not fear" is a recurring theme in Matthew 10:24-39. Think or talk about things that you are afraid of. Naming and talking about your fears can be helpful. Draw a cross on a sheet of paper. Write the fears you named around the cross. Take a moment to look at your list of fears and say them out loud.

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ draw us nearer to you and free us from our fears. Amen.**



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

