

July 9, 2023 • Sixth 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

Entry of Christ into Jerusalem,
Wilhelm Morgner, 1891-1917

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54247>.
Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wilhelm_Morgner_001.jpg.

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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You, setting by Paul Manz

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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Krista Avalos

FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

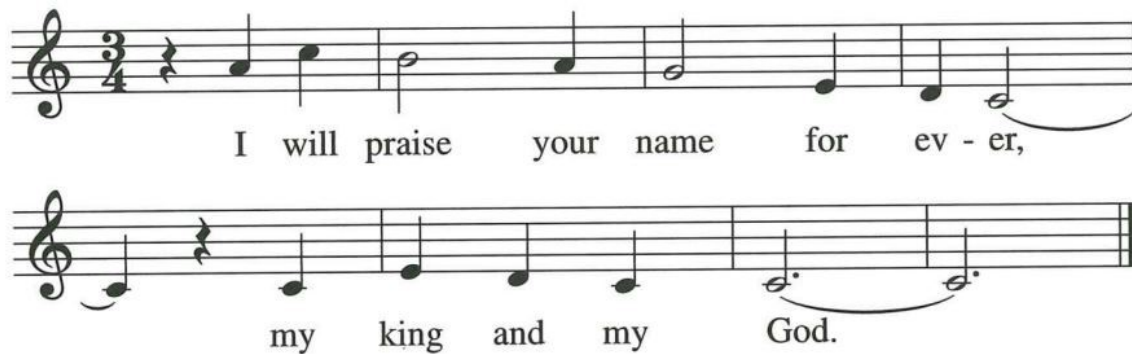
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

PSALM 145

Refrain

Michel Guimont



I will give you glory, O God my king,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. *℟*.

You are kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good you are, LORD, to all,
compassionate to all your creatures. *℟*.

All your creatures shall thank you, O
LORD,

and your friends shall repeat their
blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your
reign
and declare your might, O God. *℟*.

You are faithful in all your words
and loving in all your deeds.
You support all those who are falling
and raise up all who are bowed down. *℟*.

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SECOND READING: ROMANS 7:15-25a

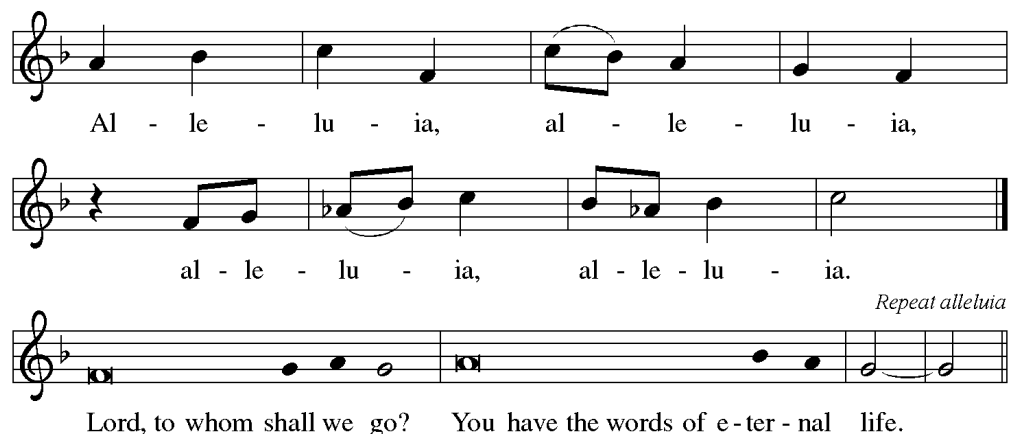
¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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: MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

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

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Bill Swantner

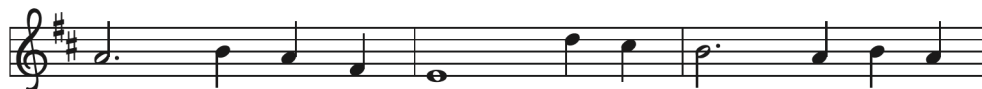
Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: AUSTIN, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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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

Softly and Tenderly, setting by Dale Wood

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.

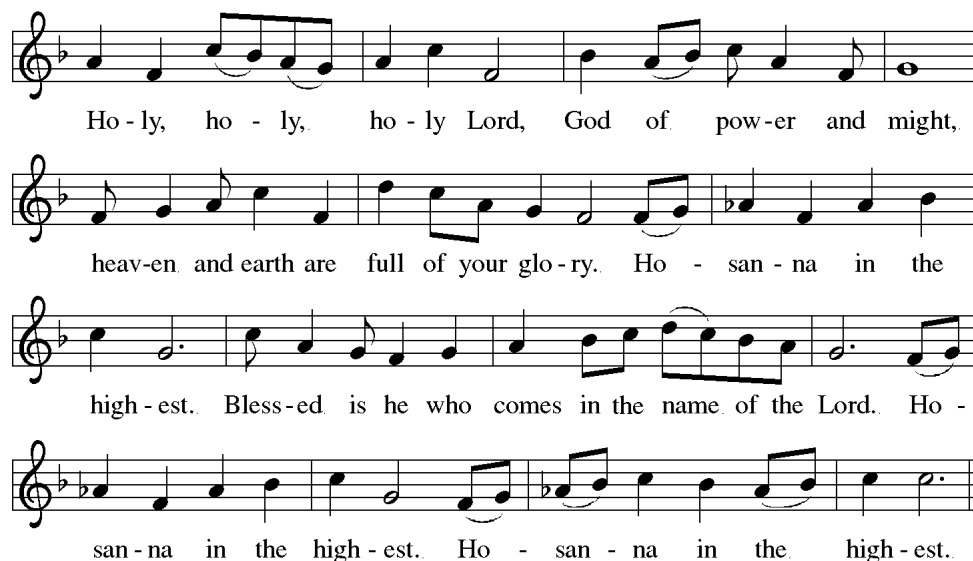
Lift up your hearts.

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

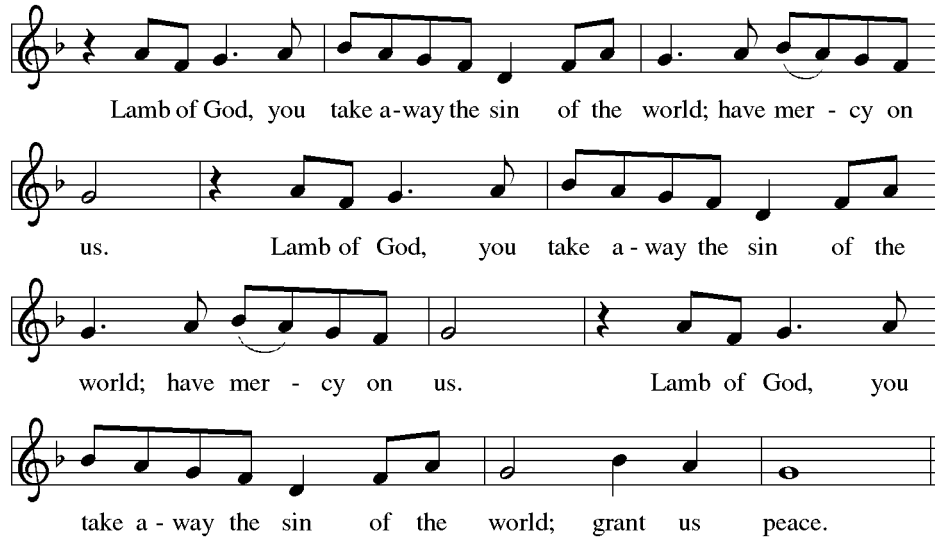
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?

What a priv-i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gigue, by Telemann

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

Doris Enderlin, Susan Johns,
Mary Ann Schmitt, Sharon Solanik,
Carolyn Thronson, Marcy Wilburn,
Gina Williams

Lay Readers

9:00

Mary Mora

11:30

Mike DeHart

Cantor

Kirby Olson

Communion Servers

9:00

Mary Jo and Paul Goldenbaum

11:30

Rachel Cannady, Steve Johnson

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott VanDoren

July Ushers

9:00

LeShea Clabough, Kevin McGee,
Dave and Doris Newman,
Karen and James Sturdivant,
Russell and Susanne Warren

11:30

Chris Berg, Audrey DeHart,
Caleb DeHart,
Kim and Mike DeHart

THIS WEEK AT ZION



Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar

Sunday, July 9

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

Monday, July 10

Zion Zippers Potluck & Fellowship	6pm	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday, July 11

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Women of Zion Bible Study	10am	Fellowship Hall
Executive Committee	6pm	Zoom
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, July 12

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
AA Meeting	7pm	Church 2
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 13

Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry Supervision	7pm	MC 5
Stephen Ministry Training Class	7pm	MC 7
Addams Family Performance	7:30	Family Life Center

Friday, July 14

Addams Family Performance	7:30	Family Life Center
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Saturday, July 15

Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
Addams Family Performance	7:30	Family Life Center

Sunday, July 16

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship Camp	10:30	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube
Addams Family Performance	7:30	Family Life Center

Summer Adult Class

Today, 10:15am

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 in the Ministry Center - MC 1 & 2.

Zion Zippers

Monday, July 10, 6:00pm

The Zion Zippers monthly potluck and social will be held on July 10th, at 6 p.m. A rousing game of bunco will follow the supper.

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



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, July 17 at 6:30pm

All men are invited to meet at Sea Island (11715 Bandera) for food, thoughtful study, camaraderie, and all YOUR ideas for Men's Ministry! Contact David Umlang at lm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

CONTACT



zionsa.org



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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.

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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Zion Theatre Group's Addams Family

Tickets for the Zion Theatre Group's production of The Addams Family are now on sale. Performances are the next two weekends—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. Please review your date and seat selection carefully before placing your order. With online sales, exchanges and refunds are not available.

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Stephen Ministry Training Update

Here is what our Stephen Ministers are learning this week in their second-to-last session before commissioning on July 23. Pray for their continued growth—and pray for those who might begin receiving care from them in the coming weeks:



SESSION NINETEEN:

HOW TO MAKE A FIRST CARING VISIT

As commissioning draws near, this class summarizes everything our Stephen Ministers have learned so far and applies it to getting their first caring relationships off to a strong, healthy start.

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.





Summer Reflection

Pastor Kathi Johnson

Somehow, the calendar has flipped to July already - to me, anyway, it feels like the summer is flying by.

I am emerging from the month of June proud of us as a congregation. In June, we hosted four weeks of camp here at Zion - two weeks of Theatre Camp and two weeks of Camp Hope! Do you realize that in the month of June, we hosted 151 children here as campers, plus had 36 youth as counselors? **What amazing ministry God does through us when we are open to the moving of God's Spirit among us!**

I am immensely grateful for the hard work of our staff members who planned and executed these camps, and yet these camps are *Zion's ministry - in, to, and with the community*. And it was beautiful to me to walk around the campus in June and see so many of y'all involved in a variety of ways. ***Thanks to all of you who helped and contributed in any way!***

Summer continues and our ministry continues, too! Thanks be to God for the opportunities we have to welcome others here to Zion with the love of God, in God's name!

**JULY 9, 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



God rescues sinners.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	The coming ruler
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Luke 12:22-31	God knows your needs
Thursday	Psalms 34:1-10	Honor the Lord
Friday	Judges 10:10-16	Israel is unfaithful again
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, we thank you for your care that rescues us when we are weary and carry heavy burdens. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your humble heart that gives rest for our souls and strengthens us with this gift of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust in the care of Jesus Christ that rescues you from all your burdens.



JULY 9, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Heard the Voice of
Jesus Say*



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:

- When is a time you or someone you know did something you knew was wrong?
- When you feel you are carrying a heavy burden, where or who do you turn to for help?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 7:15-25a.

Paul has a deep understanding of our brokenness. We are not what we want to be. Although we know what is the right thing to do, we do not do it, at least not consistently. Paul calls this inconsistency sin. We like to think we are in control of our thoughts and actions. However, Paul experiences the power of sin within him that does not submit to God's goodness. He states clearly, *"For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do"* (v. 19). He calls this way of life *"wretched"* (v. 24). It seems there is no hope for us, but that is exactly why we need Jesus. Only sinners can be saved or *"rescued"* (v. 24). In the language of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, we are *"weary and are carrying heavy burdens."* In our brokenness, Jesus brings healing, rescues us from the power of sin, and gives us rest and peace. The response of faith is: *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 7:25a).

Discuss: When have you faced brokenness and become aware of God's forgiveness that heals your heavy burdens?

Pray: **Gracious God, we thank you that your mercy endures forever, and your power over sin and death rules in our lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others when they are tired and weary?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



A yoke is a wooden piece that joins two animals together, usually oxen, to help pull a plow. The work becomes easier with two pulling. In Matthew 11:29, Jesus says, *"take my yoke upon you, and learn from me."* There are days when we feel like we are carrying heavy burdens without support from someone else. Jesus reminds us that we are not alone. Think or talk about what it means to be connected with one another through Jesus and how it helps us to *"bear one another's burdens."*

Pray: **Lord Jesus, help us to share your love with one another and be yoked to you so that our burdens are lifted. Amen.**



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

