

August 20, 2023 • Twelfth 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

Le Christ et la Cananéenne
(Jesus and the woman of Canaan)
by Francisco Antolinez y Sarabia

From Wikimedia Commons—Original source:
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:\(Agen\)_Le_Christ_et_la_Canan%C3%A9enne_-_Francisco_Antolinez_y_Sarabia_-_Mus%C3%A9e_des_Beaux-Arts_d%27Agen.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(Agen)_Le_Christ_et_la_Canan%C3%A9enne_-_Francisco_Antolinez_y_Sarabia_-_Mus%C3%A9e_des_Beaux-Arts_d%27Agen.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 *Old Time Religion Medley*, arranged by Carol M. Smith and Jane E. Patty
Sarah Juhasz, Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for the gift of water. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life. Your steadfast love fills the earth.

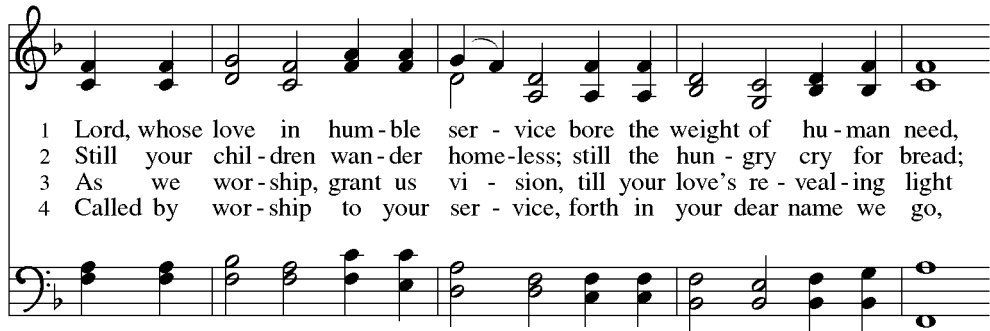
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice and help us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

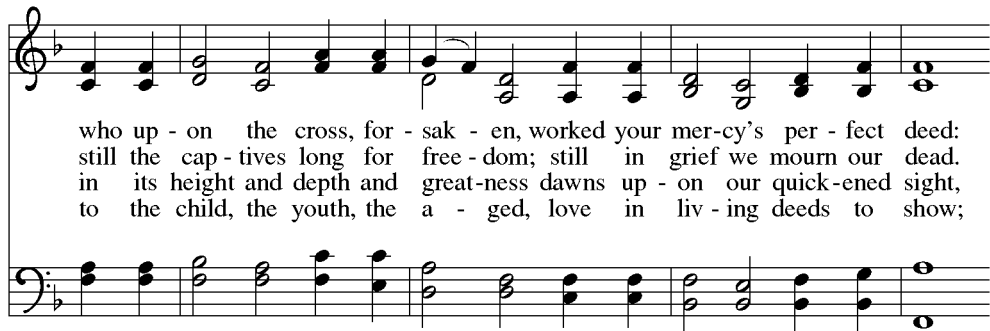
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

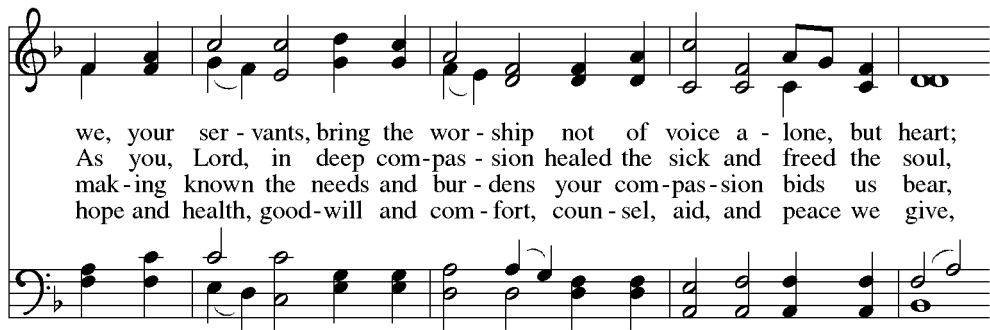
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
 Arr. © 1985 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, 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: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

PSALM 67

1 God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright-ness
 2 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; be by all that
 3 Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; earth shall then its

of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - ior, shine;
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing
 fruits af - ford. Un - to us your bless - ing give;

fill your world with light di - vine; all your sav - ing
 glo - ry to their gra - cious King; at your feet their
 we to you de - vot - ed live, all be - low and

health ex - tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
 trib - ute pay, and your ho - ly will o - bey.
 all a - bove, one in joy and light and love.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt., P.D.

Music (DIX 7.7.7.7.7.7): Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt., P.D.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

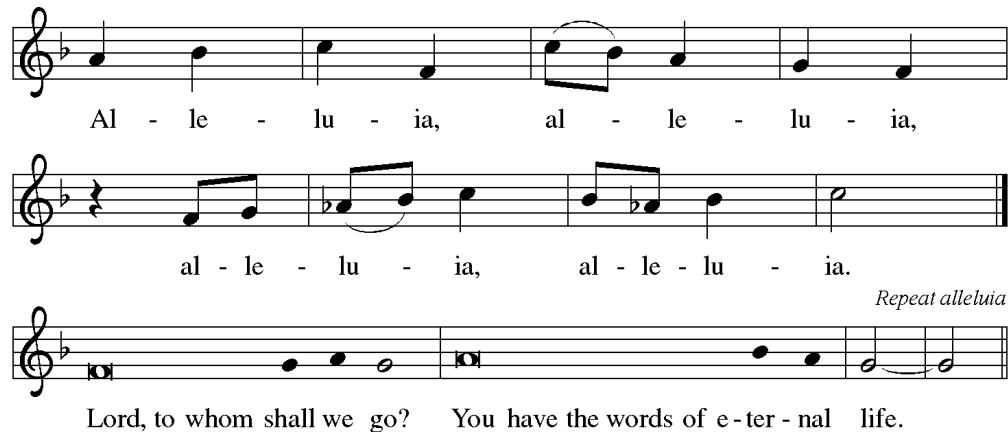
²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been

disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to 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: MATTHEW 15:10-28

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

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to

the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.
Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Each petition ends: God of grace.

*Response: **Hear our prayer.***

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 *I've Got Peace Like a River*, arranged by Patricia Sanders Cota
Sarah Juhasz, Handbells

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

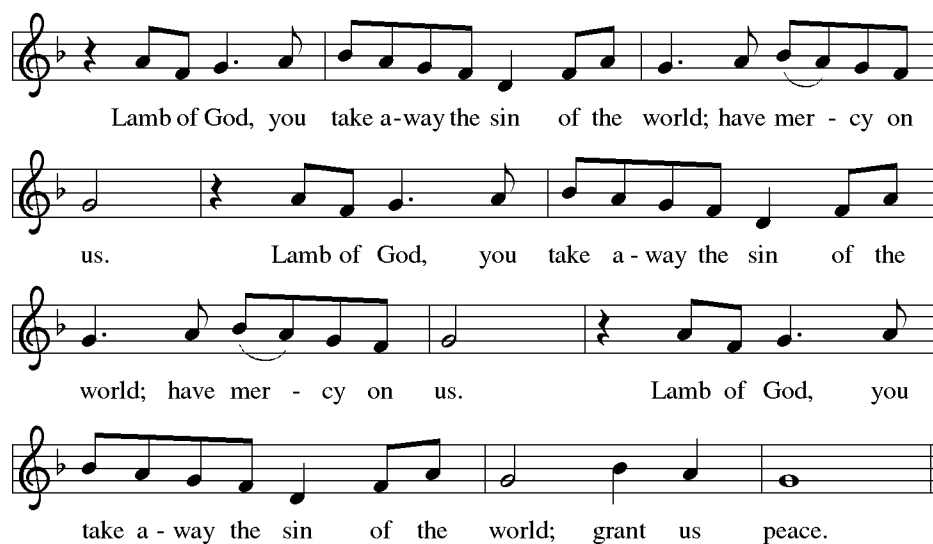
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and grown,



Refrain

wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939
 Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sr
 Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Duke Street, setting by Robert Hobby

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.

**THIS
WEEK
AT
ZION**



*Scan QR code for
this month's
calendar*

Sunday, August 20

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, August 21

Game Group	1pm	Fellowship Hall
Lutheran Men's Ministry Fellowship	6:30	Sea Island

Tuesday, August 22

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, August 23

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
AA Meeting	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, August 24

Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
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Saturday, August 26

Weight Watchers	7:30& 9:30	Church 2
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Sunday, August 27

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Intergenerational Faith Formation	10:15	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Music Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 23 at 7:15pm in the sanctuary.

Handbells

Rehearsals begin on Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary balcony.

Youth Choir (Grades 6-12)

Begins on Tuesday, August 29 at 7:00pm in the music apse.

Children's Choir (Grades 2-5)

Begins on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00pm in the ministry center.

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Alyssa Brodbeck,
Mary Jo Goldenbaum,
Chris & Don Jones, Suzi Lockamy,
Belynda McKenzie,
Susan & Joe Noonan, Kathy Null,
Linda & Roy Tschirhart

Lay Readers

9:00

Jake Apodaca

11:30

Mike DeHart

Communion Servers

9:00

Brinkley Harrell, Linda Hoffman

11:30

Susan Johns, Shannon Rios

Livestream

Steve Johnson, Rev. Kathi Johnson

Sound

Sammy Mikulski

August Ushers

9:00

Jake Apodaca, Irvin Moss,
Matt Murray,

Bill and Mary Ann Schmitt

11:30

Chris Berg, Audrey DeHart,

Caleb DeHart,

Kim and Mike DeHart

CONTACT



zionsa.org



zionsa



@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

Publicity Notices

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.

Game Group

August 21 at 1:00pm

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Zion Bunco Group

Fourth Mondays, 1-4pm, starting August 28

Welcome ladies and gentlemen of Zion interested in forming a Zion Bunco Group (ZBG). We are looking for 24-28 players and additional subs, for 12 months.

ZBG will gather the 4th Monday of each month, 1-4 pm in the Fellowship Hall. You may also bring snack refreshments to share. For additional information contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer. Hope to see you there for fun and fellowship!

Mah Jongg, Anyone?

Fourth Mondays, 1-4pm, Fellowship Hall

Anyone interested in getting together for a game of National Mah Jongg, please contact Algine Perry.

September Dinner Out

Thursday, September 7

PoPo Family Restaurant, I-10W at Exit 533

Enjoy a 50-year-old traditional supper club, filled with memories and all kinds of good food! Contact: Jim or Sandy Chillstrom at chillstrom@sbcglobal.net.

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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 September 12, 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 MOPS and MOMSnext

Zion hosts a MOPS (Moms of Preschoolers) and MOMSnext (Moms of school age kids) group one Wednesday morning per month.

A MOPS/MOMSnext meeting includes practical teaching through speakers, demonstrations, and videos. Plus, there's usually food...food you didn't make! But more importantly, you'll get to have honest conversations with other moms who understand the joys and frustrations of motherhood. In addition to our monthly meetings, Zion MOPS/MOMSnext has playdates and Mom's Night Out events. If you would like to learn more about MOPS/MOMSnext email Nicole Stender at mops@zionsa.org.

Our program year begins September 13 at 9:30 am. Join us on August 30 at 10am for our Pops with MOPS Kickoff Playdate at Nani Falcone Park.

Zion MOPS and MOMSnext - Childcare Needs

We are seeking loving, responsible childcare volunteers (ages 16+) to help make this year of Zion MOPS/MOMSnext a success! Help moms enjoy their time together. No special skills required, come snuggle a baby, play with a toddler or sing songs with a preschooler. Only 1 morning a month from 9-12, September to May. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Nicole Stender 210-391-8773 or mops@zionsa.org.

Women of Zion and Lutheran World Relief School Supplies Collection Sunday, August 20



Here are the following items to be collected:

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks (wide ruled or college ruled)
- ruler (inches and centimeters included)
- pencil sharpener
- pair of blunt scissors
- unsharpened pencils
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 16 or 24 box of Crayola crayons
- 2 1/2-inch eraser

Please purchase these specific items only. Place your donations in the red bins in the Narthex or Gazebo.

You may also wish to donate financially - please indicate in the memo line on your check that it is for LWR School Supplies.

Thank you for your donations to this annual event!



Habitat for Humanity Work Days

September 9 & 29

We need about 10 more people for our Habitat build on Saturday, September 9 at Rancho Carlotta in Von Ormy. We'll have another work day on Friday, September 29.

Construction volunteers must be age 14+. All tools and training are provided - no experience necessary. Please note that job site will not have any shade. If we are still experiencing this heat, we will begin a little earlier and work will end after lunch.

Other volunteer needs:

- Drive for carpools
- Make phone calls

For details and registration, scan the QR code for September 9 or 29 (or both!) or visit a table set up in the Gazebo or under the porte cachere today or next Sunday, August 27. Please email Matt Iwanicki at Mkiwanicki@yahoo.com with any questions.



September 9



September 29



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, August 21 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 Imm@zionsa.org if you need more details.



Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to

keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others—and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!)

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: 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

How ARE you? It's a question I feel like I've answered about a gazillion times since my surgery on August 1. My answer varies widely, depending on the day and time someone asks me. How am I? Sometimes I'm feeling well, other times there's pain. Sometimes my energy is high, and then it plummets. One of the biggest pieces of this recovery time has been for me to pay attention to how I'm doing and then act accordingly. The other day, I was up at church for a meeting. I was feeling pretty well, and then I suddenly hit a wall, energy-wise. "OK," I said to the person, "I'm done," and I came home to rest.

Add "rest" to the list of things I'm grateful for.

One thing that's been really helpful is getting out to walk (in the morning, before it's 104!). After being cooped up inside, it feels great to get out and walk - even though I have to pay extra attention to my steps, sometimes move really slowly, and I can't walk the dogs just yet. Just being outside in the sunshine, surrounded by birdsong (and cicada-song) - the walks help me reconnect with creation and with our community, too.

Add "morning walks" to the list of things I'm grateful for.

As I ease back into my work here at Zion, I'm really having to pay extra attention there, too. Some days I really don't have much to offer, which is hard for me. Other days, I feel like I'm able to do more. In the midst of it all, one thing I'm sure of is that y'all are such a caring group of people - you've given me time and space to heal - and shown so much love to me and to Steve.

Add "the people of Zion" to the list of things I'm grateful for.

Thank you all - so much!

PrK



**AUGUST 20, 2023
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



God blesses us to go into the world with mercy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 15:10-28	A woman's faith
Monday	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	God's saving power is everywhere
Tuesday	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	God saves Jews and Gentiles
Wednesday	Jude 1:17-23	Warnings and exhortations
Thursday	Jeremiah 42:7-17	The Lord will grant you mercy
Friday	Deuteronomy 4:25-31	Moses commands obedience
Saturday	Psalms 67	Tell the nations to praise God
Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, (Selah) that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Psalm 67:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, you have chosen us and blessed us to bless the world. Give us compassionate hearts to do your will through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, for blessing us with the fruitfulness of the earth that gives us food each day we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be gracious to you and bless you for the sake of the whole world. (Psalm 67:1-2)



AUGUST 20, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



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 have you been blessed by others?
- How have you blessed others with the love of God?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 67.

God's mercy is shown through two distinct divine actions. First, God saves us through forgiveness, rescuing us from harm, and by saving us from death. God does a second great act that we sometimes overlook. God blesses us. God blesses us with the fruit of the earth, comfort, and joy. Psalm 67 asks for God's blessings and also affirms that God has already blessed us with abundance. God intends joy for all the earth (all the nations). We are blessed to bless the nations with joy and gladness by knowing the goodness, justice, and mercy of God. In Matthew 15:21-28 that joy is experienced by the Canaanite woman, a foreigner, who is relentless in seeking help for her daughter. Jesus, who was sent "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24) resists her requests, but her persistence gains Jesus' mercy. She is acknowledged for having great faith and Jesus' mission expands to those beyond Israel. The point of both Bible texts: God's saving work and blessings are for all.

Discuss: Like the Canaanite woman, when have you persisted in asking for God's mercy?

Pray: **Blessing God, you care for us throughout our lives. Give us your joy and gladness and the heart to bless others with your goodness and mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 who are not part of your group or nation?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The prophet Isaiah declared God's intention to make God's house (a temple in Jerusalem) a "house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7). Think or talk about prayer in your home. Is there a special place to pray? Is there a special time to pray? Is there a special way to pray? Do you pray alone or with others? In what ways do you feel your own home is a "house of prayer"? Pray the Lord's Prayer and then say: **Let the peoples praise you, O God. Let all the peoples praise you.** (Psalm 67:5)



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

