

September 17, 2023 • Sixteenth 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

Merciful Mother, Jessica Jane Lynch

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57259>. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/angelisms/4679661269> - Jessica Jane Lynch.

Zion Lutheran Church

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

9:00

Plein du chant premier Kyrie, by François Couperin

11:30

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, arranged by Sandra Eithun

Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Bill Swantner

Please rise, as you are able.

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.



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
 Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
 Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

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. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
 Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing
 your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM 103

Refrain

Spanish El Se-ñor es com - pa - si - vo y mi - se - ri - cor - dio - so.
English The Lord is rich in kind-ness, a-bound-ing in com - pas-sion.

Words: Spanish © 1970 Conferencia Episcopal Española; English Peter M. Kolar © 1998 World Library Publications
Music: Peter M. Kolar © 1998 World Library Publications
Psalm Text: from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress Publishers
Tone: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
You will not always accuse us,
Nor will you keep your anger forever.
You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor repaid us according to our iniquities. *Refrain*

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far have you removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
So you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: ROMANS 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

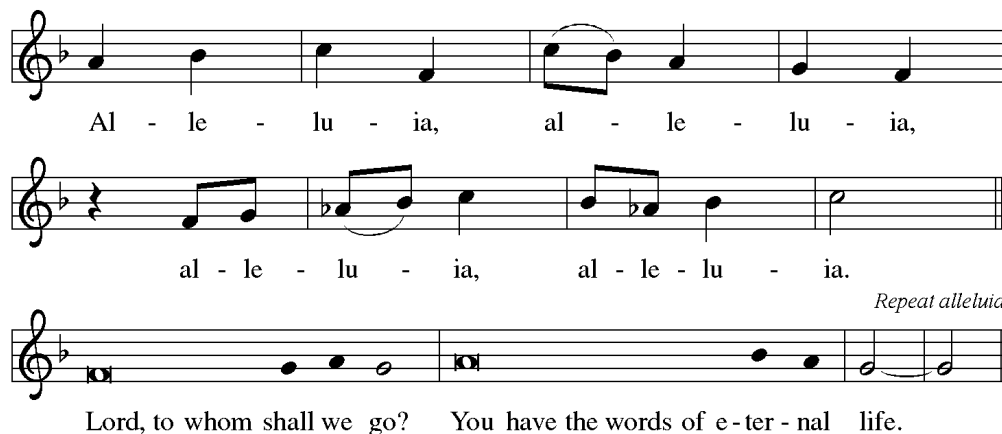
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

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

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”


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

Please be seated.

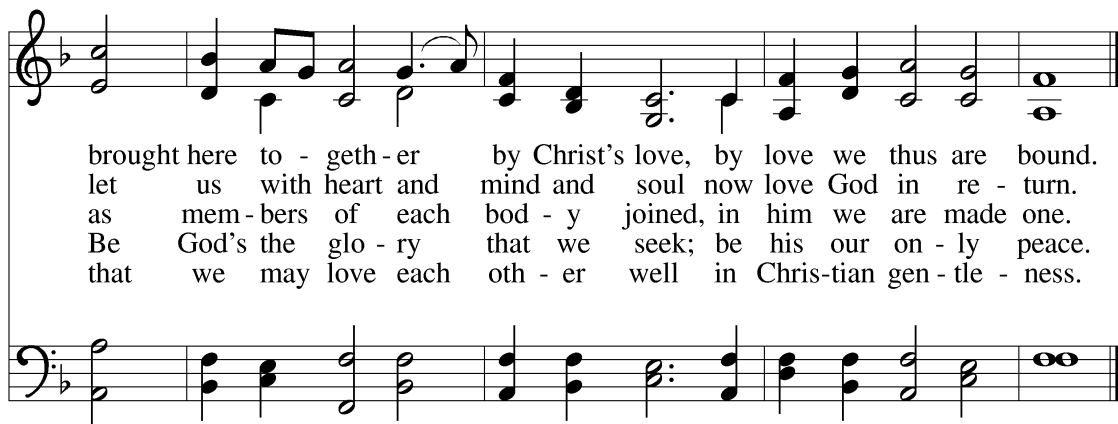
SERMON

Pastor Dan Heim

Please rise as you are able.



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
 Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

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

9:00	<i>Mercy</i> , by Craig Courtney	Youth Choir
11:30	<i>Holy God, We Praise Thy Name</i> , arranged by Sandra Eithun	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.

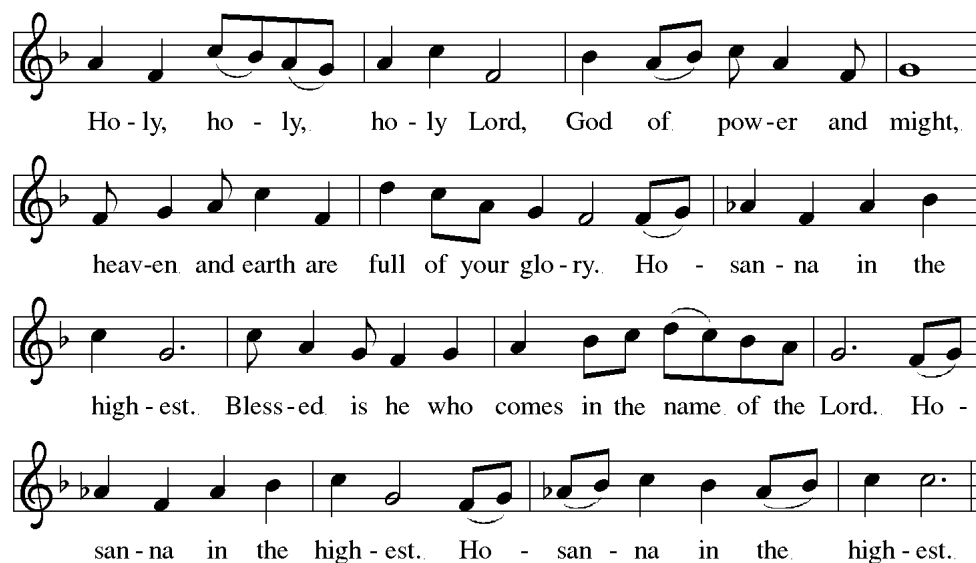
We lift them to the Lord.

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

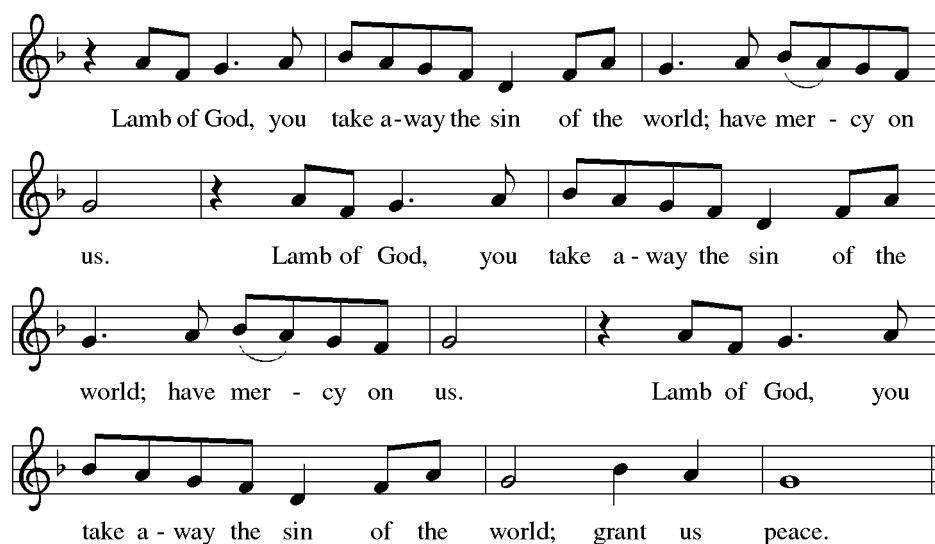
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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 MUSIC

9:00

Agnus Dei, by Sonja Poorman

Youth Choir

11:00

One Bread, One Body, arranged by Michael Ryan

Handbells

COMMUNION HYMN

I Come With Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. 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

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

Postludium, by Adolf Hesse

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, September 17

WOZ Pancake-French Toast Breakfast	8am	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Children and Youth Faith Formation	10:15	MC—Various Rooms
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Monday, September 18

Game Group	1pm	Fellowship Hall
Lutheran Men in Mission	6:30	Sea Island

Tuesday, September 19

Exercise Group	9am	Church 2
Council Meeting	6:30	Fellowship Hall
Handbell Choir	6:30	Sanctuary
Children's Choir	7pm	MC 1
Youth Choir	7pm	Music Apse
Warriors Anonymous	7pm	Church 2

Wednesday, September 20

Crafty Bunch	9:30	Education Building
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Wednesday Worship	1pm & 6:30	Chapel
AA Meeting	7pm	FLC 202
Al-Anon Meeting	7pm	FLC 101
Chancel Choir	7:15	Sanctuary

Thursday, September 21

Quilting	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Youth Night	6:30	MC—Various Rooms
Stephen Ministry	7pm	MC 5, 7

Saturday, September 23

Weight Watchers	7:30 & 9:30	Church 2
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Sunday, September 24

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
Children and Youth Faith Formation	10:15	MC—Various Rooms
Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class	10:20	Fellowship Hall
Worship in person and online	11:30	Sanc & YouTube

Worship Support

Altar Guild

Bonnie Bahr, Betsy Howard,
Mona McQuien, Ruth Medbury,
Karen Sturdivant, Laura Walsh

Lay Readers

9:00

Kevin Hoag

11:30

Chris Jones

Cantor

Sarah Williams

Communion Servers

9:00

Melanie Murray, Randalyn Nickel

11:30

Chris Jones

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

August Ushers

9:00

Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum,

Carolyn Pfeiffer,

Shannon & Gus Rios

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

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

Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class

No Class Today

Throughout the fall, Pr. Kathi's Sunday morning class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at about 10:20am. This fall, we'll be discussing the liturgical year, loosely using the book *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* by Laurence Hull Stookey (which is NOT required reading). We'll meet again next Sunday, 9/24. Please join us then!

Sunday Faith Formation Hour Rooms and Information

- **Age 2 - Kindergarten:** MC-3
- **1st - 4th grade:** MC-4
- **5th-7th grade:** MC-5
- **8th-9th grade:** MC-7 (Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation)
- **10th-12th grade:** MC-8

Sunday School registration continues through today.

Wednesday Worship

Wednesday Worship is at 1pm and 6:30pm in our Historic Chapel (Church 1). Join us for this simple time of Scripture, Prayer, Song, and Holy Communion.

Parents' Night Out

Saturday, September 23, 5-9pm

Zion youth invite you to drop your child(ren) off for a pizza dinner and a variety of activities—board games, sports, art and craft projects, a movie (G-rated). Adults, enjoy a night to yourself! Open to all: infants and toddlers will be watched separately by background-checked adults; older children by Zion youth with experience as camp counselors.

Suggested donation: \$15/first child, \$12/each additional. More info and sign-up using the QR code:



Women of Zion

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



WOZ@zionsa.org

Women of Zion Events

Tuesday, October 10

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!

Zion MOPS and MOMSnext

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.

MOPS 2023-2024 Calendar:

October 11	February 7
November 8	March 6
December 13	April 17
January 10	May 8

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 one morning a month from 9am-12pm, September to May. If you or someone you know is interested please contact Nicole Stender 210-391-8773 or mops@zionsa.org.

Crafty Bunch

Wednesdays, 9:30am

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

Bring your own handwork project, or check what's in the cabinets if you want to start something different.

Quilting for LWR

Thursdays, 9:30am

Quilters are in need of new or gently used flat sheets, which are used for quilt bottoms. Twin size works best; however, larger ones will be cut to size, and the rest of the sheet will be used to piece the top. Sheets can be dropped off during Thursday meetings from 9:30 – 12:00. Contact Diane Stewart for more information.

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Game Group

September 18 at 1:00pm
Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Zion Bunco Group

September 25, 1-4pm
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 at 210-872-3489. Hope to see you there for fun and fellowship!

Thursday Youth Nights Resume

September 21
For middle and high schoolers, every other Thursday, 6:30-8 pm: Dinner, Bible study, service project, Confirmation mentoring.
\$4 suggested offering for dinner.
September 21 agenda:

- Service projects: Building benches for Nichols Elementary and Craft Fair vendor shelf; writing Camp Hope 2024 games curriculum
- 8th-9th grade Confirmation "Getting Acquainted" Session with adult mentor

RSVP here:



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, September 18 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission Southwestern Texas Synod Gathering

Saturday, September 30, 2023
Zion Lutheran Church, San Antonio
Information and registration on-line at: swtlmm.org
Cost is a free will offering for refreshments.
And join us for our Habitat for Humanity service project on Friday, September 29 - information and registration QR code below.



Habitat for Humanity Work Day September 29

You can now sign up for our Habitat build on Friday, September 29 at Rancho Carlotta in Von Ormy. Construction volunteers must be age 14+. All tools and training are provided - no experience necessary. For details and registration, scan the QR code for September 29.



Please email Matt Iwanicki at Mkiwanicki@yahoo.com with any questions.

Zion is a Stephen Ministry Church!

Love One Another as I Have Loved You

In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job--it's something Jesus calls us all to do! Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you - or someone you know - are going through a difficult time, contact any of our Stephen Leaders about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.

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.



Thrivent Match for Maui Fire Recovery Donations

Thrivent Financial is offering a \$1 match for each \$2 donated to the Maui fire recovery when donated through Lutheran Disaster Response. If you would like to donate, you may use this QR code or go to thrivent.contribute.co/events/832597/detail.



Annual Church BBQ & Picnic

October 15, 11:00am

It's that time of year – Zion's annual BBQ and picnic! We'll have one worship service at 10am that morning, followed by food, fun and fellowship in the Family Life Center. This will be a pay-what-you-want meal. You can look forward to the delicious dessert table, the Crafty Bunch sale, the Trash to Treasures sale, bounce houses, petting zoo, and other games for the entire family.

It takes many hands to make the day enjoyable for all. Let us know where you would like to help – BBQing, serving, kitchen helpers, cleanup crew, and donating to Trash to Treasures.

Volunteers are needed to serve the desserts. If you can help, contact Diane Stewart. Also, lots of baked goods, such as dessert bars, cakes, pies, cupcakes, and cookies are needed. Desserts can be brought to the Family Life Center from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. the morning of the BBQ.

Begin collecting your items to donate to the Trash to Treasures sale. Your donations are what make the sale a success. The Fellowship Hall will be open on Friday afternoon (October 13) and Saturday morning (October 14) for you to bring your items. No item is too insignificant—we accept most anything. However, please do not bring in television sets as those items have to be disposed of as "hazardous waste" if someone else does not want them.

Pastor's Reflection

Will Be Back Next Week

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is merciful and gracious, full of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge one another
Wednesday	2 John 1:1-6	Truth and love
Thursday	Lamentations 3:18-24	There is still hope
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-11	Do all you can to show God's love
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy and grace, give us hearts full of compassion, ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us through Christ Jesus, who died that we may live. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for this food that you give to us and to all. Help us to share your goodness and mercy with others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of mercy and grace who sustains you, give you joy.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*The Numberless Gifts of
God's Mercies*



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 respond when you are in conflict with a particular person or group?
- Jesus sets us free to love others. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 14:1-12.

The world is divided in many ways. Countries are divided into parties and loyalties. Families can be divided by strong and diverse views. Even congregations can be divided by different viewpoints. Paul gives us a word that we need to hear today. We are to keep the main thing the main thing, and that is this: Christ died to be the Lord of all. Therefore, why pass judgment and despise those for whom Christ died? As the saying goes, "When you look into the eyes of another, you are looking at someone God loves." Be careful not to judge and condemn. As Psalm 103:8 reminds us, "*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" Our God who is slow to anger should be a strong caution to us not to be quick to judge. Whether it is over diet, piety, political or economic convictions, our judgments will all pass away, but God's judgment is eternal, and that judgment is most clearly seen from the cross of Christ. Jesus died for us that we may be set free to love others, in spite of our differences.

Discuss: What relationship do you have with someone where you could use a kinder word to reconcile that relationship through Christ our Lord?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, help us to see beyond our self-righteous judgments of others and to receive your forgiveness with joy and gladness 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, who in your life can you reach out to with a word or action that expresses forgiveness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think or talk about a time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and how it may have changed your relationship.

Pray: **Dear Lord, help me to open my heart and mind to know when to forgive and when to ask for forgiveness for my words or actions towards another. In Jesus' name, amen.**



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

