

September 24, 2023 • Seventeenth 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

Jonah, John August Swanson

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelinkhttps://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56549>. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

Zion Lutheran Church

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

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Prelude in B Minor, by James Michael Stevens

WELCOME

Pastor Dan Heim

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 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
 Text © Union of Welsh Independents.
 Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of 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

Pastor Dan Heim

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

PSALM 145

Refrain

Michel Guimont



The Lord is near to all who call on him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
You are great, LORD, highly to be praised,
your greatness cannot be measured. *R.*

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. *R.*

You are just in all your ways
and loving in all your deeds.
You are close to all who call you,
who call on you from their hearts. *R.*

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SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

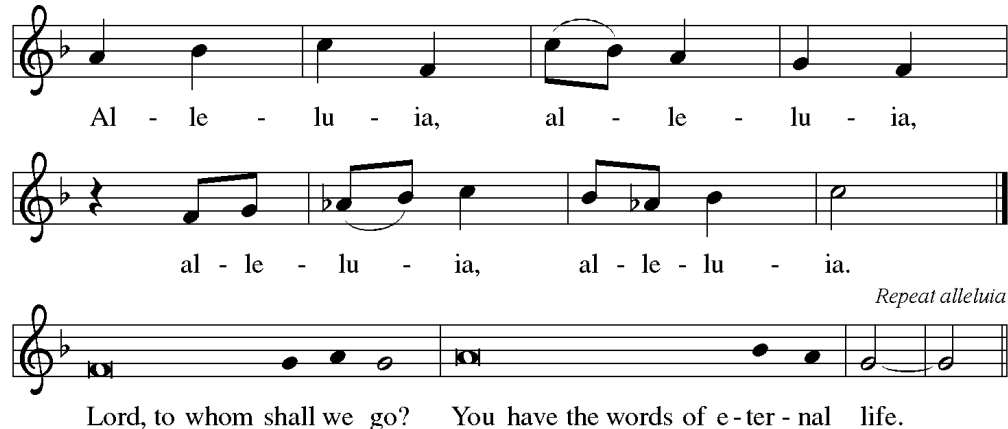
²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

The Vineyard Workers
Spark Story Bible Page 298

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Please be seated.

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness
 2 There is wel-come
 3 For the love of
 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
 for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
 in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
 ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
 through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
 of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
 by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
 let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938–1984
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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

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>We Are the Church</i> , by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh	Children's Choir
11:30	<i>Mercy</i> , by Craig Courtney	Youth Choir

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.

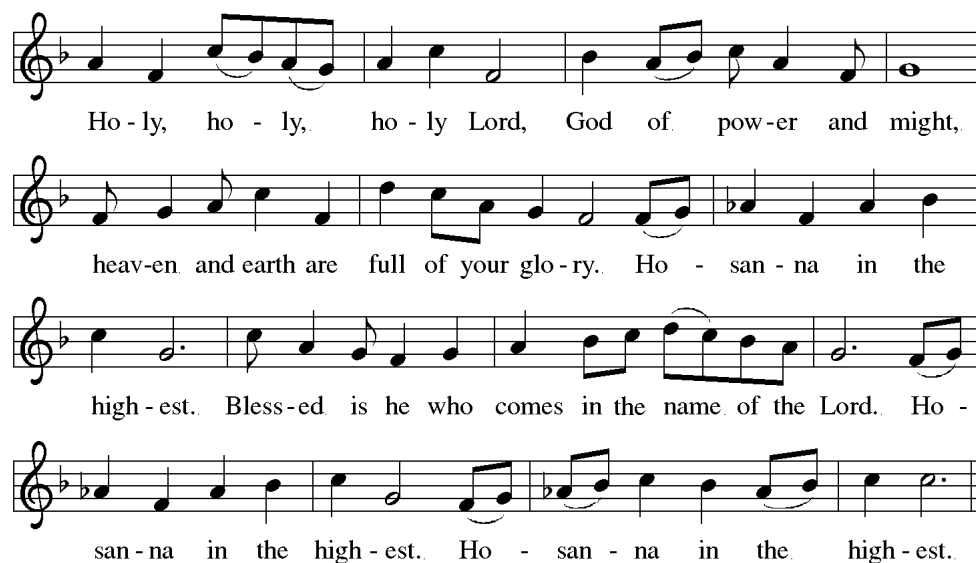
We lift them to the Lord.

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

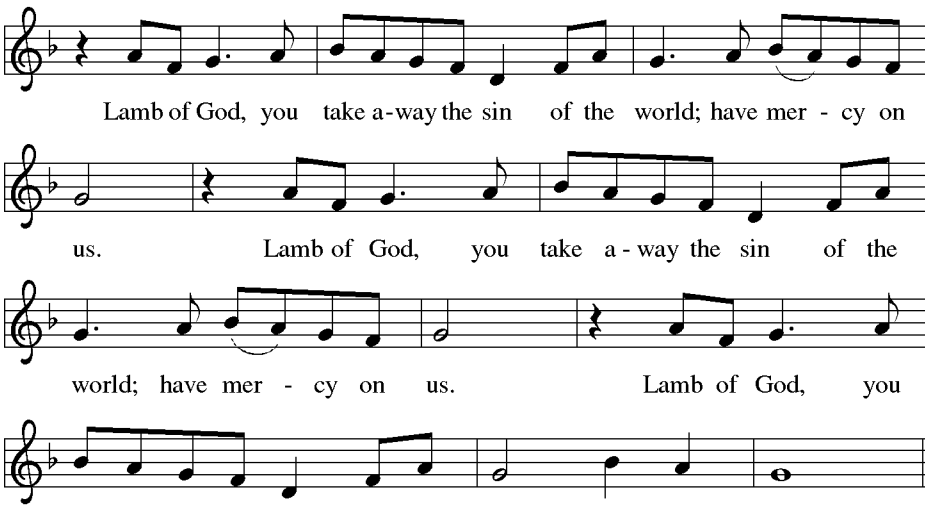
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

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

Make Me a Servant, by Kelly Willard
(verses 2-5 written by the Children's Choir)

Children's Choir

11:00

Agnus Dei, by Sonja Poorman

Youth Choir

COMMUNION HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.

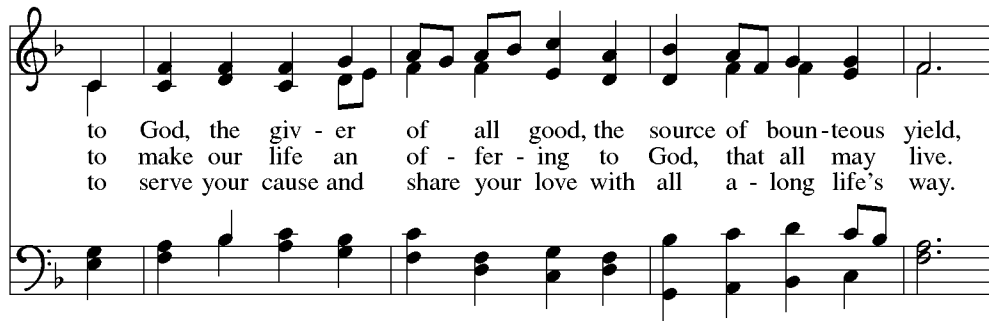
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

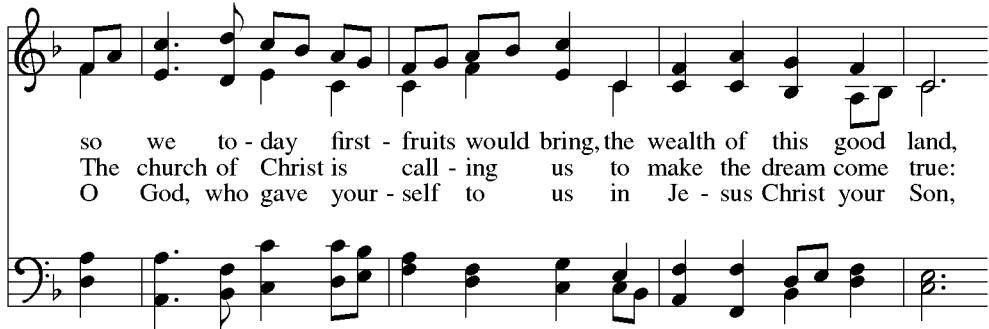
Amen.



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon, by Andre Campra

Worship Support

Altar Guild

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

Lay Readers

9:00

Scott McKenzie

11:30

Jeff Williams

Cantor

Casey Finn

Communion Servers

9:00

Belynda McKenzie, Melanie Murray

11:30

Suzi Lockamy

Livestream

Steve Johnson, David Umlang

Sound

Scott Van Doren

September Ushers

9:00

Mary Jo & Paul Goldenbaum,
Carolyn Pfeiffer,
Shannon & Gus Rios

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, September 24

Worship in person	9am	Sanctuary
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

Monday, September 25

Zion Bunco Group	1pm	Fellowship Hall
Mah Jonng	1pm	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 26

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

Wednesday, September 27

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 28

Quilting	9:30	Fellowship Hall
Weight Watchers	9:30	Church 2
Stephen Ministry	7pm	MC 5, 7

Friday, September 29

Habitat for Humanity Work Day	7:45	Von Ormy Worksite
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Saturday, September 30

Weight Watchers	7:30 & 9:30	Church 2
LMM Synod Conference	8:30	Fellowship Hall

Sunday, October 1

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

Pr. Kathi's Sunday Morning Class

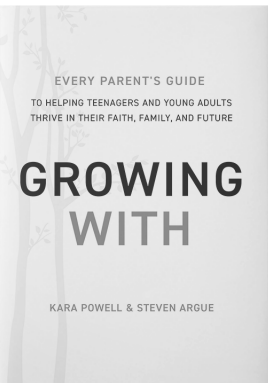
Throughout the fall, Pr. Kathi's Sunday morning class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at about 10:20am. This fall, we'll be discussing the liturgical year, loosely using the book *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church* by Laurence Hull Stookey (which is NOT required reading).

Additional Adult Formation Options

Starting today, September 24, 10:15am

Down + Out

Explore themes of the Lutheran Christian faith. This six-part video series "reintroduces you to the life-changing reality of God's promises, and points the way to a completely different view of life in the light of where grace takes you." Small group discussions following videos led by John Macha, other volunteer leaders. **MC-6**



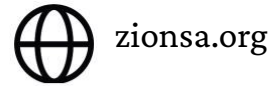
Growing With

Discussions based on the podcast/book *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family and Future*. No required reading. Led by Lori Gallegos, other volunteer leaders. **MC-1**

Children and Youth Faith Formation Hour Rooms

- **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

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.

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



Men's Fellowship

Third Monday, October 16 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.



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 Army.

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 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!

Mah Jonng

September 25 at 1:00pm

Anyone interested in getting together for a game of National Mah Jongg, please join us. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Algine Perry or the church office with any questions.

Zion Dinner Out

Thursday, October 5, 6:30pm Seating

Braza Brava—7959 Broadway St, Ste 300

Pizza? Yes...and much more. Thanks Dawn and Mario Rodriguez for the tip. Please join us. Please RSVP by October 1 to Dave and Doris Newman or contact them with any questions at ddnewman@mac.com.

Coffee Talk with Treasurer Allen Cockrell on

October 8

Join us in the Fellowship Hall around 10:20am on Sunday, October 8, as Congregational Treasurer Allen Cockrell gives a financial update.

Zion Zippers

Monday, October 9, 6pm

The Zion Zippers senior group will meet for their usual potluck. Immediately following will be the Paint Can Game, led by Mary Mora. Come, expecting fellowship, fun, and laughs.

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.

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.

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.



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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

Pastor Kathi Johnson

“Just take it one step at a time.” How many times in my life have I heard this? How many times in my ministry have I said it? This idea - one step at a time - can be so helpful in times of worry or stress, in times when healing is needed, or when facing a particular challenge. “Just take it one step at a time.”

Jesus says it this way: “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:34) And there are times when I think, “That's great advice, Jesus, but have you seen my to-do list lately?”

But, as it turns out, taking things one step or one day at a time is how we operate best. When we focus on that one day - the one that's here and now - we can be truly present. Whether it's family or our jobs or school work or time with friends or time with God, when we focus on the here and now, we can be present to whatever or whomever is with us.

And then...things really happen. Our relationships begin to deepen. Our inner lives grow. We have the ability to think more clearly and understand more easily as our minds are less cluttered with “what ifs” and “what abouts.” We can pray. We can breathe.

Try it this week, if you can. Focus on one day - one step - at a time. See how it goes.

Blessings,
PrK



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Responding to God's generosity with gratitude.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Jonah 3:10–4:11	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	Philippians 1:21-30	What life means to Paul
Wednesday	Psalm 136	God's love never fails
Thursday	Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Friday	Acts 20:32-38	Paul says goodbye
Saturday	Psalm 145:1-8	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” **Matthew 20:15-16 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, you are more generous than we can imagine or deserve. Thank you for your love and mercy that has no end through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food and all that you give, for you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen. (Psalm 145:8)

A Blessing to Give:

May you be reminded of God's love and generosity each day.



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*To God Our Thanks
We Give*

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 feel you were treated unfairly?
- How would you describe God's generosity? Give an example.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 20:1-16.

Fairness is in the eyes of the beholder. Most of us have experienced a time when we felt we were treated unfairly. It gets all the more frustrating when the sense of fairness is decided by God's grace. Who or what we see that should be last, may end up being first and a privileged recipient of God's generosity. There are times when the apparent unfairness of this parable can sound like good news when we are hurting, needing any help we can get, and can only take what is offered. This parable points to what God offers us—grace upon grace—something that is so much more than we deserve. As a result, our lives are able to respond with overwhelming gratitude. If gratitude is not our response to Jesus' parable, it may lead us to the observation that our sense of being first has missed the point; we may need to review the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-13) for God's sense of fairness and living rightly before God.

Discuss: When have you experienced God's generosity? How did you respond?

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, help us to see as you see and to live with compassion for all and with gratitude for what we receive through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how can you show an act of undeserved kindness to someone this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 145:4 tells us: *"One generation shall extol your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts."* Think or talk about people from older or younger generations who have shown and taught you about God's love and generosity through Jesus. Consider drawing a picture, writing a note, or calling them to say thank you. As a reminder of God's generosity, prayerfully recite: **"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."** (Psalm 145:8)



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

