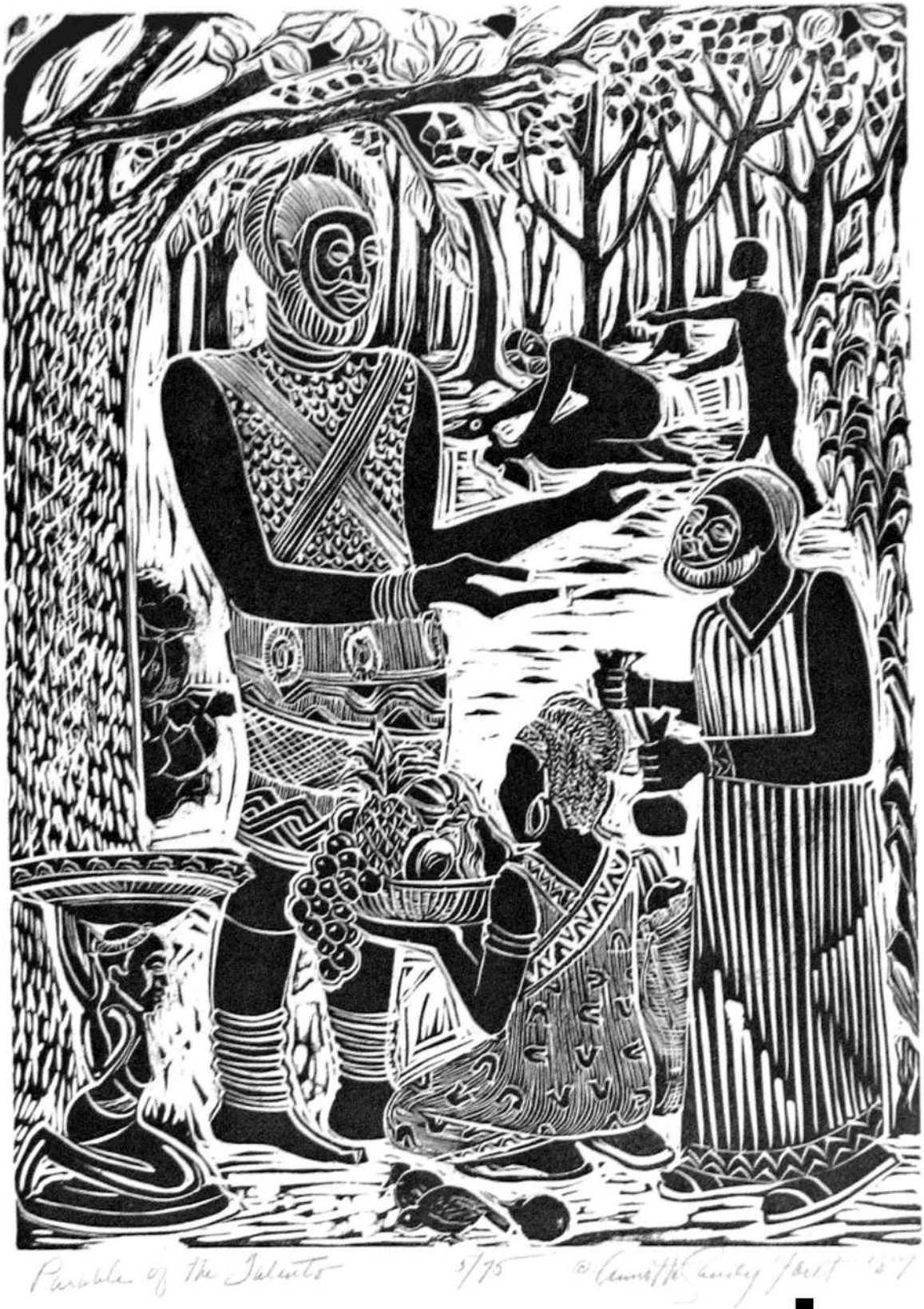
November 15, 2026 • Thankoffering Sunday
9:00 and 11:30 am




# Zion lutheran church

## WELCOME TO ZION

Zion Lutheran is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Locally, we are part of 120 congregations, 6 campus ministries, Cross Trails Ministry, and much more in the Southwestern Texas Synod.

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.

Most Sundays, our 11:30 service is-streamed at YouTube.com/ZionSanAntonio. Our practice is to maintain a wide angle view of the sanctuary, occasionally focusing on worship leaders, not individual worshipers. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, please speak with an usher or pastor.

## ON THE COVER

Parable of the Talents, Annette Gandy Fortt

From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/56021. Original source: annettefortt.com.

# GATHERING

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

*Please silence cell phones and smart watches at this time. Let us prepare our hearts for worship.*

## PRELUDE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9:00 | *Hello Everybody*<br>Traditional | Children's Choir |
| 11:30 | *Advent Anticipation*<br>by Karissa Dennis | Handbells |
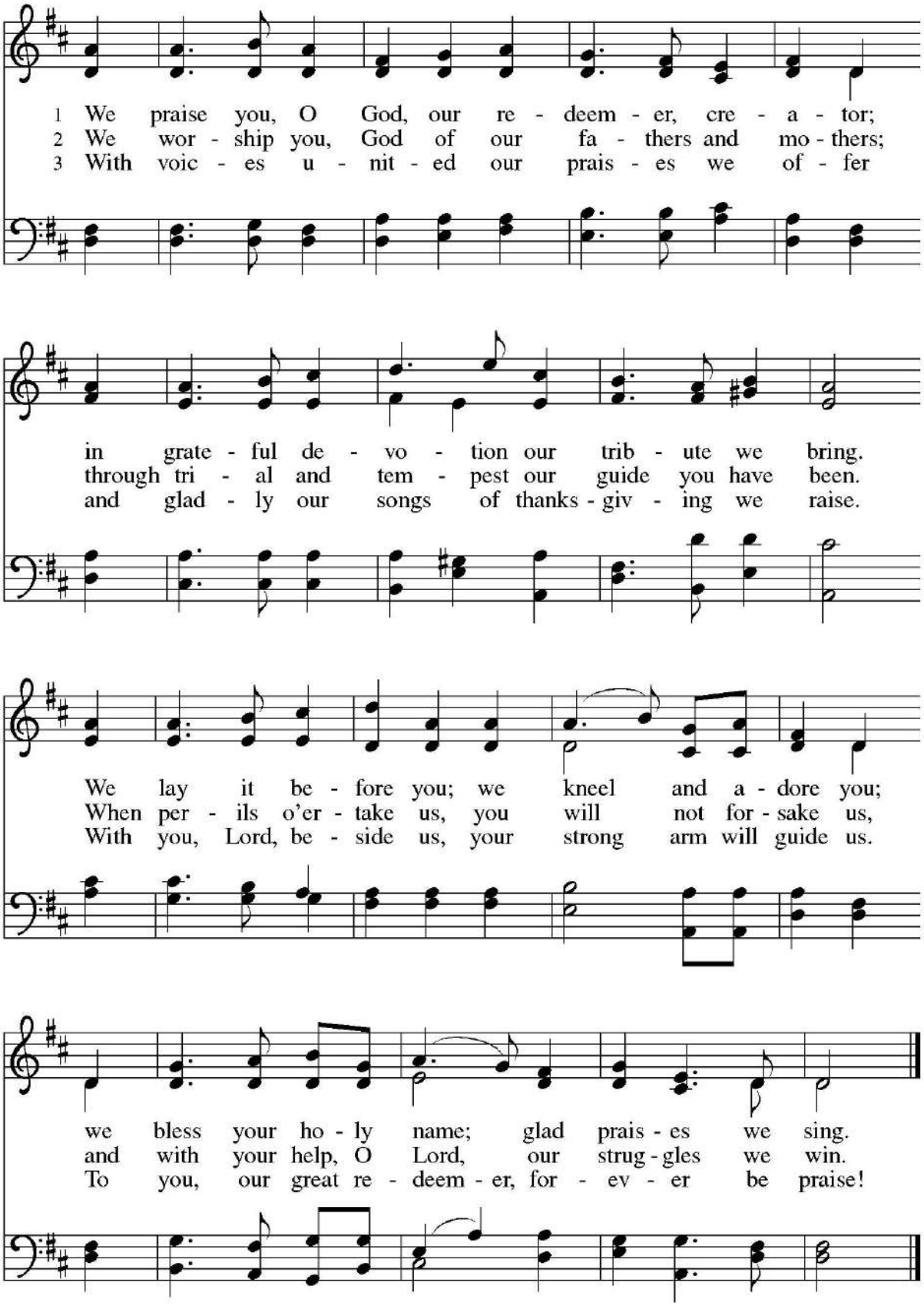
## WELCOME HOME! — Pastor Al Jensen

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's mercy and love, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have not always seen your image reflected in one another. You call us to honor the gifts of all your people, yet we have failed to honor the wisdom, leadership, and contributions of all people. You call us to seek justice, yet we have ignored the realities of inequality and oppression. You call us to care for those who struggle, yet we have too often chosen comfort over compassion. Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, and renewed to serve and share God's love in the world. **Thanks be to God!**




Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963
Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# WORD

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Pastor Stephani Shumaker

*Children may come forward for the Children's Message and the rest of the congregation is seated. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany their children forward.*

## FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
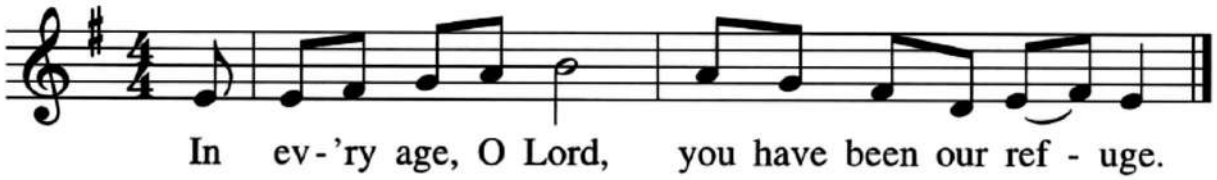
7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has prepared a
sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like
dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they
shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord
is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and
anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick
darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have
sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in
the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make
of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM: Psalm 90

*The cantor sings the refrain once to begin, followed by the assembly. The assembly then sings the refrain when indicated by* ℟.

*Refrain* Michel Guimont




O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.
Before the mountains were born
or the earth or the world brought forth,
you are God, without beginning or
end. ℟.

You turn us back into dust
and say: "Go back, children of the earth."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. ℟.

You sweep us away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the
morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers;
by evening it withers and fades. ℟.

Who understands the power of your
anger
and fears the strength of your fury?
Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart. ℟.

Psalm Refrain © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All Rights Reserved
Psalm Verses © 1963, 1993, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.
Music Copyright © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved
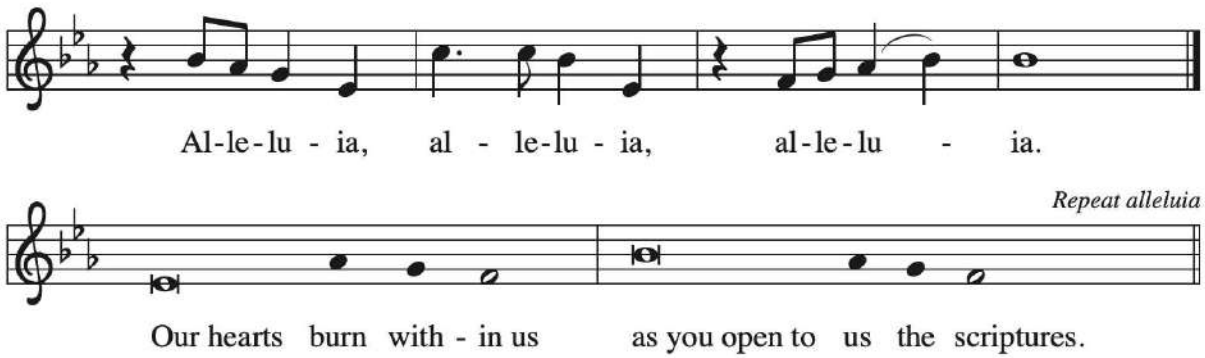
## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night. [3]When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction
will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5]for
you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6]So,
then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7]for those who sleep
sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let
us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation.
[9]For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus
Christ, [10]who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.
[11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of our Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please rise, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-29

*Parable of the Talents*
*Spark Children's Bible Page 316*

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to
each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16the one who had received the five
talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one
who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent
went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19After a long time the master
of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five
talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22And the one with the two talents also came forward,
saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24Then the one
who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a
harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25so I was
afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his
master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow
and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the
bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the
talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will
be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they
have will be taken away.

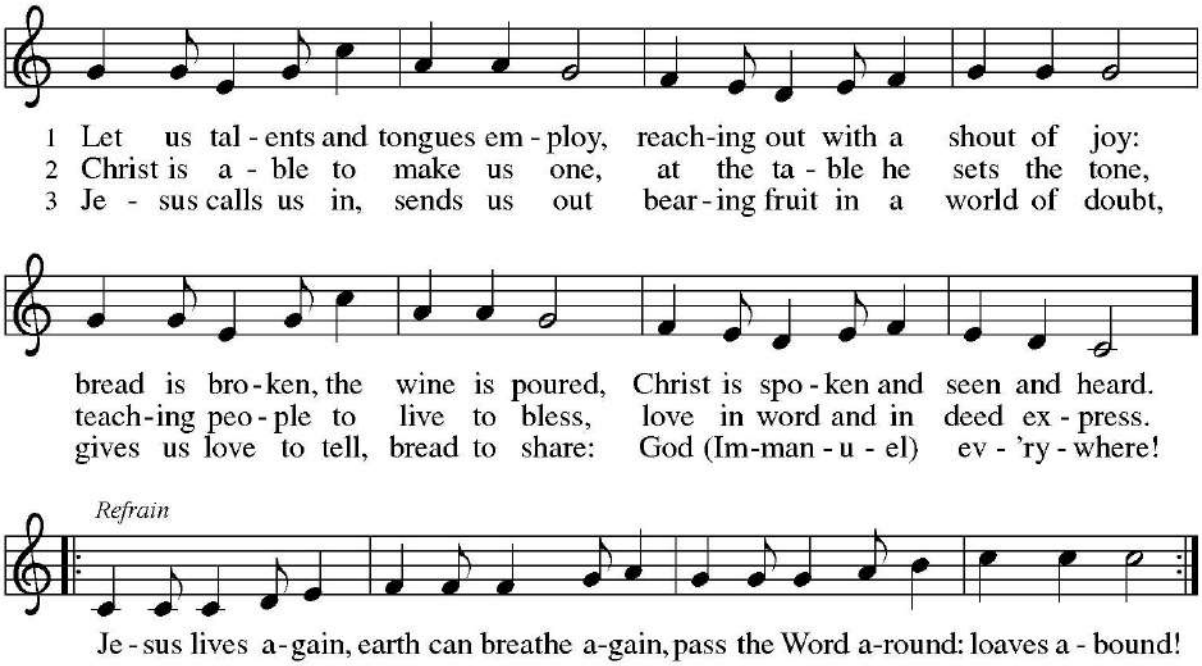
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please rise as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY — Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ




Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980
Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## APOSTLES' CREED

People of God, what do you profess to be true?

**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 THE CHURCH

Gathered with saints by the river of life and surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the well-being of the Church of God, the peace of the whole world, and the welfare of all people.

Almighty God, without your mercy, we are left with only our fear. Look upon the efforts of local, national, and international relief organizations with your favor, that those they touch will know security and safety. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, with your pervasive presence, we are left with only ourselves. Motivate and equip us to use our gifts and abilities to their fullest, that the goodness of your grace in the world you made will multiply. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Saving God, without love, we are left with only our limited goodness. Release us from all attempts to save ourselves, and renew in us a trust in the death and resurrection of your Son for us and our salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all hopefulness, without your abundance, we are left with only our needs. Fill the emptiness of all who suffer illness, hunger, malnutrition, distress, or any devastation, that they would be filled with your overflowing compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be yours, God, through Jesus Christ the crucified and risen one. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Additional announcements and a schedule for the week are on the back pages of this bulletin.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

## OFFERING

*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 may place their offerings in the jar to the left of the Chancel (near the sacristy door).*

## OFFERING MUSIC

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 9:00 | *This Is the Day*<br>by Mark Burrows | Children's Choir |
| 11:30 | *Canon of Grace*<br>by Linda Lamb | Handbells |

*Please rise, as you are able. The ushers bring the offering forward for the Offering Prayer.*
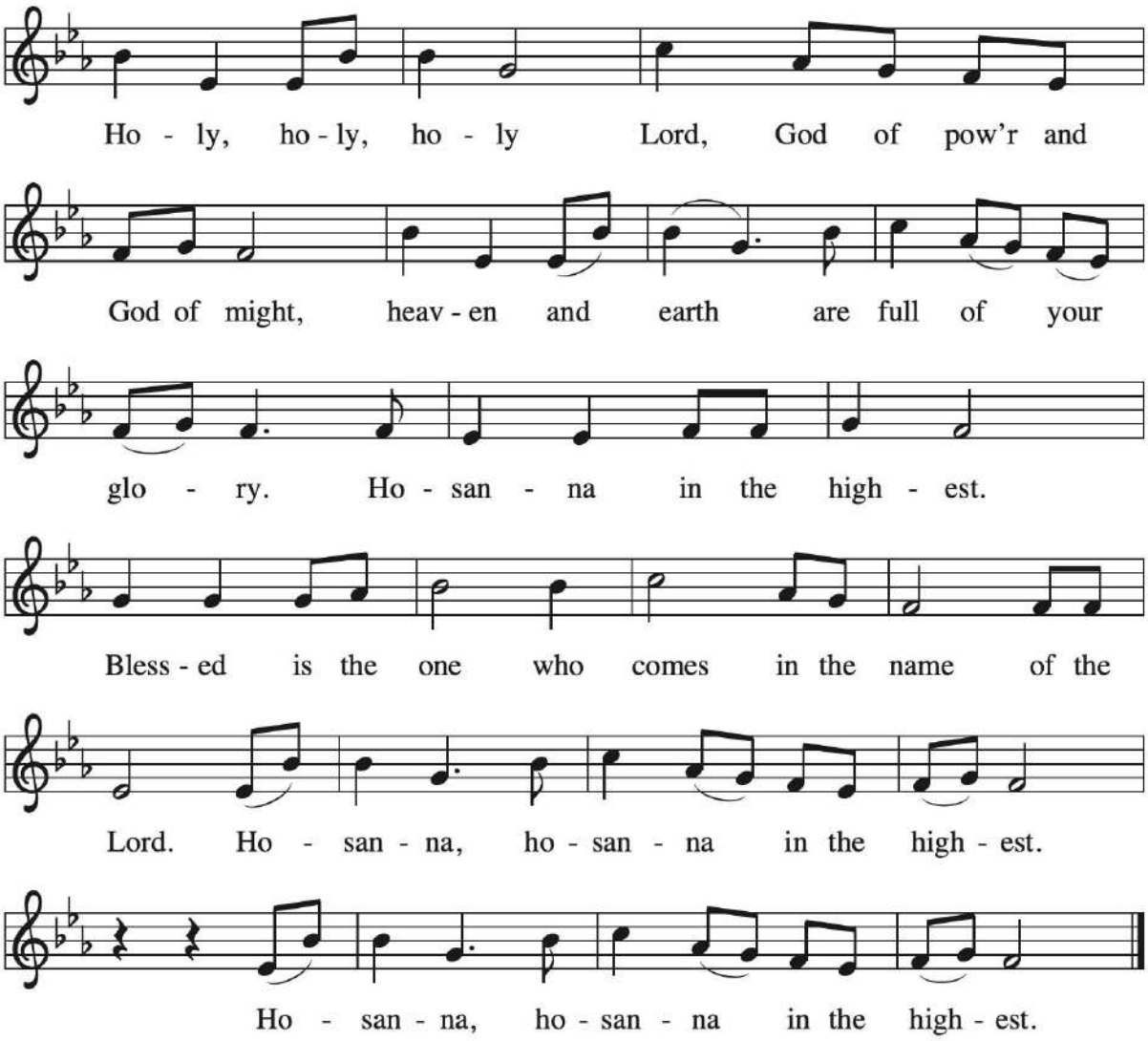
## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, **you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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 with great joy that we offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## JESUS' PROMISE AND COMMAND

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray now as Jesus has 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

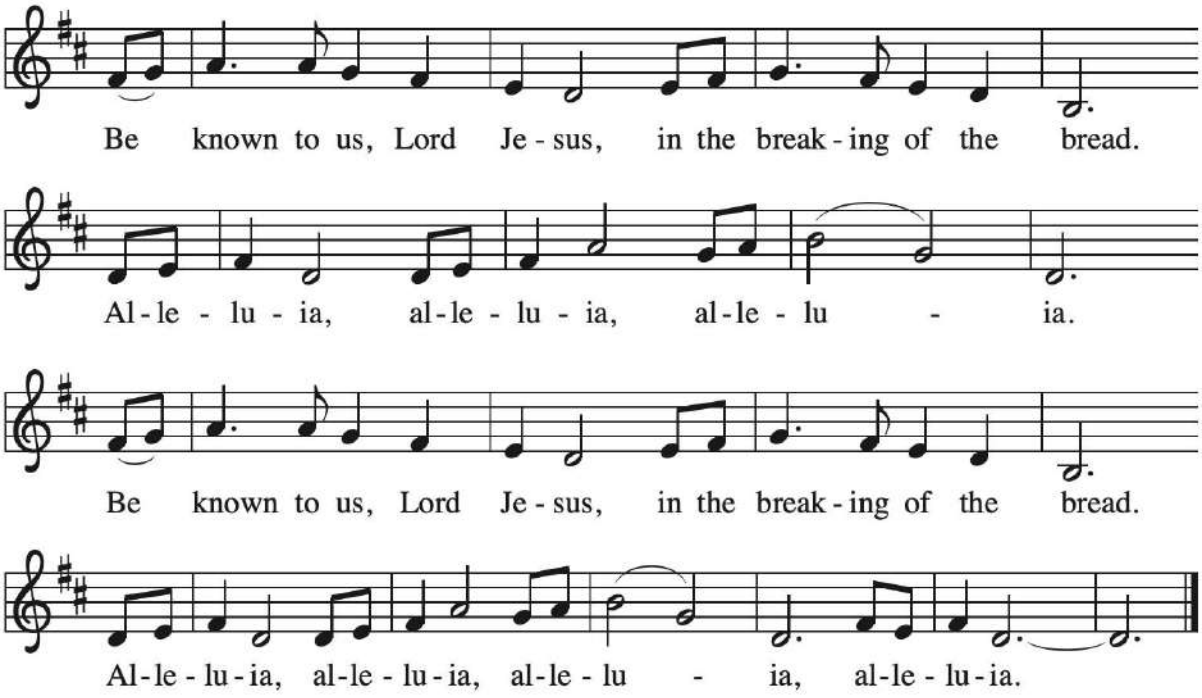
These are the gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION
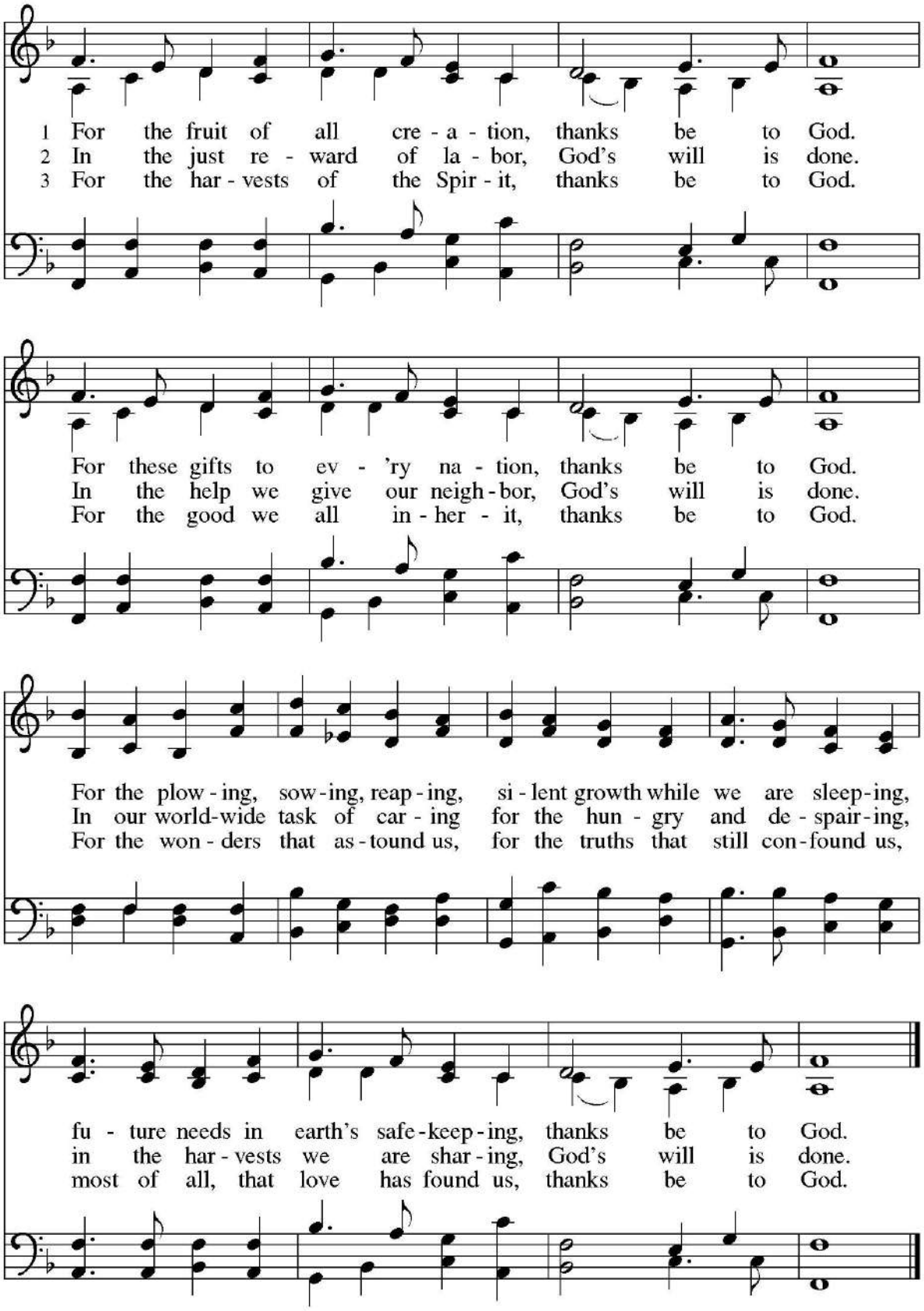
*Because this is the Lord's table, we welcome all to receive Holy Communion. If you'd like to receive a blessing instead, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will bring the sacrament to you. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask the person serving bread. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray for those unable to drink wine. After receiving Communion, please return to your seat for singing and prayer.*

## BE KNOWN TO US




## COMMUNION MUSIC

9:00 *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup* Children's Choir
by Jeremy Young




Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

*After communion, we rise and share in blessings.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us out in peace.*

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN *on next page*

### SENT FORTH

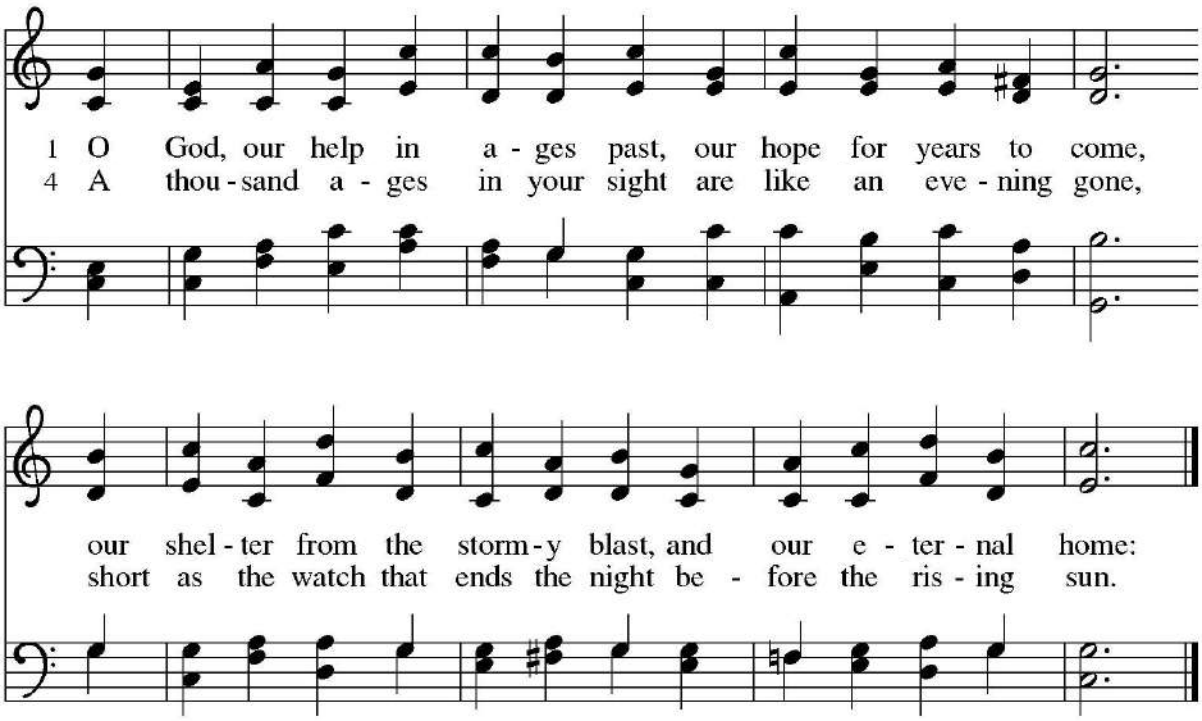
Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!
**THANKS BE TO GOD, AND WE WILL!**

### POSTLUDE

Postlude on *St. Anne*
by Paul Manz

### 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.*




5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

## THIS WEEK AT ZION

*Scan QR code for this month's calendar*

## Sunday, November 15 - Thankoffering Sunday

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Blood Drive | 9am | Parking Lot |
| Worship in person | 9am | Sanctuary |
| Caring for the Caregiver | 10:15 | Fellowship Hall |
| Faith Formation for All Ages | 10:15 | various rooms - *see next pg* |
| Middle School Parent Meeting | 10:15 | Ministry Center 1 |
| Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio | 11:30 | Sanctuary & Online |
| Junior Master Gardener | 1pm | Church 2 |
| Evening Confirmation | 5pm | Ministry Center 1 |

## Monday, November 16

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Game Group | 12:30 | Fellowship Hall |
| Lutheran Men in Mission | 6:30 | House of Joy |

## Tuesday, November 17

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Exercise Group | 9am | Church 2 |
| Staff Meeting | 11am | Breakroom |
| Council Meeting | 6:30 | Breakroom |
| Handbell Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 | Sanctuary |
| Children's Choir Rehearsal | 7pm | Ministry Center 1 |
| Youth Choir Rehearsal | 7pm | Music Apse |
| Warriors Anonymous | 7pm | Church 2 |

## Wednesday, November 18

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Crafty Bunch | 9am | Education Building |
| Cemetery Board Meeting | 9am | Fellowship Hall |
| MomCo | 9:30 | Ministry Center 1 |
| Wednesday Daytime Worship | 1pm | Church 1 |
| AA Meeting | 7pm | Family Life Center 202 |
| Al-Anon Meeting | 7pm | Family Life Center 101 |
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7:15 | Sanctuary |

## Thursday, November 19

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Quilting for Lutheran World Relief | 9:30 | Fellowship Hall |
| Weight Watchers | 9:30 | Church 2 |
| High School Youth Night | 6:30 | Ministry Center 1 |
| Fiesta Flutes | 7pm | Church 2 |

*Calendar continued next page*

## Worship Support

### Altar Care Team

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

### Lay Reader

9:00 Brian Georgi

11:30 Joe Noonan

### Cantor

Bud Halstead

### Communion Servers

9:00 Bonnie & Brinkley Harrell
Brett Kraemer

11:30 Randa Bruce Gonzales
Jennifer Kretzschmar
Rebekah Osher

### Livestream

Deb Hearn

### Sound

Clare Adams

### Ushers

9:00 Carmen Nickle
Bill & Jan Pinkerton
Karen Stoldt
Llynniece Swanston
Rachel Williams

11:30 Pam Gammage
Josie Sletten

## Faith Formation for Children and Youth

10:15 in Ministry Center Rooms:

| *Age or Grade* | *Room* |
|---|---|
| 3-5 Years | MC-3 |
| Grades Kinder-2 | MC-4 |
| Grades 3-5 | MC-5 |
| Middle School Confirmation | MC-7 |
| High School | MC-8 |

***Please note that the nursery is available for children ages birth to 2 years.***

## Music Rehearsals

Come share your gifts by joining one of Zion's music groups! Whether you sing, play an instrument, or simply enjoy making music with others, there's a place for you.

If you play an instrument that isn't a part of our current schedule, or have any questions, email Rob Mikulski at@zionsa.org.

### Handbell Choir

*High School Youth and Adults*

Tuesdays 6:30pm Sanctuary

### Children's Choir

*Students Grades 2-5*

Tuesdays 7-7:45pm Ministry Center 1

### Youth Choir

*Students Grades 6-12*

Tuesdays 7-8pm Music Apse

### Chancel Choir

*Adults*

Wednesdays 7:15-9pm Sanctuary

## Saturday, November 21

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Weight Watchers | 8:30 | Church 2 |

## Sunday, November 22 - Christ the King

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Bethlehem Families Olive Wood | 8am | Conference Room |
| Worship in person | 9am | Sanctuary |
| The Gardens at Zion & Poinsettias | 10:15 | Ministry Center 1 |
| Faith Formation for All Ages | 10:15 | various rooms - *see this pg* |
| Caring for the Caregiver | 10:15 | Fellowship Hall |
| Worship in person and YouTube@ZionSanAntonio | 11:30 | Sanctuary & Online |




## Thankoffering Sunday

### Today

The concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's many blessings. It is a tradition of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has provided for us.

At Zion, our WELCA Women of Zion's annual Thankoffering collection is today. Please place the special blue envelopes with your check or cash in the offering plate.

Thank you for your donations!! **All offerings collected go to the WELCA churchwide organization for support of their ministries.**

## Caring for the Caregiver: A 3-Session Class



**Sundays, Nov 15, 22 & 29**
**10:15am in Fellowship Hall**
**Take a Breath.**
**Find Your Balance.**
**You give so much.**
**Your well-being deserves attention, too.**

November 15, Session 1: Understanding Stress & Caring for Yourself Always on the go? Feeling stretched thin? Carrying more than others can see? Discover how stress affects your mind, body, and spirit—and recognize the signs of compassion fatigue and burnout. Practice calming breathing exercises and explore simple ways to make room for yourself.




## Blood Drive

**Today, November 15, 9am-2pm**
**Bloodmobile in Zion Parking Lot**

Join us for our Blood Drive. As a thank-you for your kindness, every blood donor will receive a $10 H-E-B Gift Card and a coupon for one (1) FREE 12 oz. bag of ground CAFE Olé.

You can use the QR code to schedule an appointment. If you have any questions, please email zion@zionsa.org.

## STAFF CONTACT

| | |
|---|---|
| Pr. Al Jensen<br>ajensen@ZionSA.org | *Day Off*<br>*Friday* |
| Suzie Wyatt<br>Administrator<br>swyatt@ZionSA.org | |
| Rob Mikulski<br>Music Director<br>rmikulski@ZionSA.org | *Monday* |
| Sammy Mikulski<br>Director of Drama Ministries<br>theatre@ZionSA.org | *Monday* |
| Pr. Stephani Shumaker<br>Youth Pastor<br>sshumaker@ZionSA.org | |
| Karen Sturdivant<br>Administrative Assistant<br>zion@ZionSA.org | |

## 2026 COUNCIL

| | |
|---|---|
| Suzi Lockamy | President |
| Scott McKenzie | Vice President |
| Rachel Williams | Secretary |
| Karen Umlang | Treasurer |
| Matt Iwanicki | |
| Shiloh Love | |
| Irvin Moss | |
| Pr. Al Jensen | |

## Council Minutes

A copy of our latest approved Council Meeting Minutes is located in the hallway by the gazebo and front office.

## OFFICE CONTACT

Mon-Thur 8:30am-5:00pm
Friday close at 3:00pm

210-688-3090

zion@zionsa.org

Website: zionsa.org

Facebook: zionsa

Instagram: @zionsatx

9944 Leslie Road, 78254

## SUBSCRIBE TO

- Weekly Z-Mail
- Prayer Chain

For secure subscription info, send an e-mail to Karen at Zion@ZionSA.org

## September Financials

General Fund Income
$114,780

General Fund Expenses
$74,278

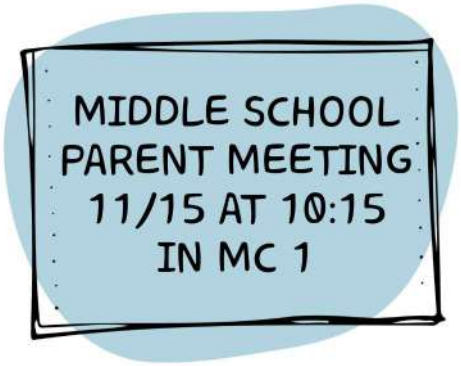
Building Fund Income
$25,940

Mortgage Payment
$27,869

Attendance Average
321 (307 Sundays, 14 Wednesdays)

For questions regarding Zion finances, contact Zion's Treasurer, Karen Umlang, by email at Treasurer@ZionSA.org.

**Building Loan Balance:**
**10/13/26 $4,145,762.91**
**11/11/26 $4,115,446.51**







## High School Youth Nights

**Next One: Thursday, November 19, 6:30-8pm**
**Ministry Center 1**

Join us for our November youth nights. High School Youth Nights are a time for students to come together, share a meal, build friendships, and have meaningful conversations. We explore the intersection of faith and everyday life, diving into topics that matter to us, asking big questions, sharing different perspectives, and discovering what it means to live out our faith in today's world. And, of course, there's always room for a little fun along the way!

## Wednesday Worship

**Wednesdays, 1pm**
**in Church 1 (Historic Chapel)**
"History of Hymns We Love" is our theme for this Fall.




Take a break during the week, and worship with your friends around the Word, hymns, and Holy Communion.



## Midweek Advent Services

**Wednesdays**
**December 2, 9, and 16**
**1 & 6:30pm**
**Theme: "Until I See, Hear, and Touch My Lord"**

Our three mid-week Advent Services will be held in the Sanctuary, and we will have both an afternoon and an evening service each week. We will use Marty Haugen's "Evening Prayer" for our liturgy. Come and prepare yourselves for the miracle of Christmas.

## Blue Christmas Service: Space to Bring Our Sadness to God




**Wednesday**
**December 23, 6:30pm**
**What is a "Blue Christmas" Service?** The Christmas season is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have during this time of the year. For many who have lost a loved one, this is a moment of pain. For others, it is a lonely time of the year. This is not a joyous season for everyone.

In this Blue Christmas Service, we will sing songs appropriate to the season. We will reflect on our pain through scripture. We will pray for hope and comfort to come our way in and through Christ's love for us.

# 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.

https://secure.myvanco.com/YJYN/ campaign/C-YTT8


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## Thanksgiving Baskets

Each year around Thanksgiving, Zion collects food for local families in need. If you are able to help: take a card from the a board in the Narthex or Gazebo, fill the need, and return the items to the designated baskets. If you have any questions or know of a family in need, contact Sammy Mikulski.



## Pathway Christmas Gift Tags

Each year Zion works with Pathways Youth & Family Services to collect Christmas gifts for children in foster care. If you would like to participate, take a tag from the display boards in the narthex or gazebo. Read the tag carefully and return unwrapped gifts by November 29. If you have any questions, contact Sammy Mikulski.

## Bethlehem Art at Zion

**Next Sunday, November 22**
**Conference Room**



Next Sunday, we will have a special opportunity to view products and creations in wood created by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land region. The Rishmawi Family has been designated as the representative for these wonderful Christian artisans and has been authorized to show their olive wood carvings.

The tradition of Olive wood carvings in the Holy Land has been handed down from father to son since the 12th century. Due to the difficulties the last few years in the Middle East, tourism has been dramatically reduced and these folks have suffered greatly. The Christian community has been immigrating to different countries, which leaves the Christian population at 2% today down from 25% fifteen years ago.

We invite you to visit their display tables and view some of the finest handcrafts available from the Holy Land. Come to the conference room anytime during the morning to shop. Scan the QR to preview on their website.

## Candle Lighting for Advent

Throughout the Season of Advent, we need individuals and families to participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath during worship. This is a meaningful opportunity to help our congregation mark the weeks of Advent as we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ.

Whether you come as an individual, a couple, or a family, we welcome you to be part of this special tradition as we share the light of hope, peace, joy, and love with one another.

If you are interested in being involved, email Rob Mikulski at rmikulski@zionsa.org and let him know at which service you are able to participate. **Advent begins on Sunday, November 29.**

## North Pole Christmas Wrapping Event for ABC of Southwest Texas

**Saturday, December 5**
**2214 Basse Road, San Antonio 78213**

Do you like wrapping gifts? ABC of Southwest Texas, a non-profit benevolent organization in San Antonio, could use your help! Presents need to be wrapped for children with special healthcare needs. Sign up, and we will be in touch!

## From a Master Gardener: What is an Arboretum?

For over 100 years, Zion Lutheran Church has been a place of worship and education. In addition, Zion is well known for its Theater and Music ministry. My goal is to simply enhance the experience of those attending our various events through Gardens.

Part of The Gardens is an Arboretum. An "arboretum" is a location with a collection of a variety of trees. We have an arboretum at Zion with 20 varieties of trees on our property. Currently we have: Live Oak, White Oak, Red Oak, Cedar Elm, Mountain Laurel, Desert Willow, Vitex "Shoal Creek", Vitex "Montrose", Vitex "LeCompte", Eve's Necklace, Chinese Pistache, Prairie Flaming Sumac, Mexican Redbud, Orchid, Texas Ebony, Texas Ash, Crepe Myrtle "Red Rocket", Persimmon, Mexican Buckeye, Red Baron Peach, and Lemon.

A map will soon be on the website: thegardensatzion.org.



## The Gardens at Zion: The Story, the Beauty, and the Variety of the Poinsettia

**Sunday, November 22, 10:15am**
**Ministry Center 1**

On Sunday, November 22, Bill Swantner will give a presentation on Poinsettias - the history, the legend and some uniquely colored Poinsettias will be available for purchase.

In addition, he will have a brief update on activity at the Gardens at Zion - the Chapel Garden renovations, the planned arboretum, and the meadow area at Braun and 1604.

## Submitting Announcements

If you have announcements for the bulletin and Zmail, please send them to swyatt@ZionSA.org by Tuesday at 5pm. Please include date, time, place and contact person.

## MomCo, a Community for All Moms

A MomCo 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.

MomCo provides childcare during their meetings. Currently, they are in need of additional volunteers for childcare. For more information, email momco@zionsa.org.

## Stephen Ministry

When life gets heavy, having someone to walk with can make all the difference. Stephen Ministers are here to offer a steady, compassionate presence.**Galatians 6:2 states: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"**

If you or someone you know is in need of care, please contact our Stephen Minister Referrals coordinators LeShea Clabough at smleshea@gmail.com, or Max Knoll at maxlianknoll.com, or call the Church office at 210-688-3090.

## Game Group

**1st & 3rd Mondays, 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall**
**Next one: November 16**

Come for table games and daytime fellowship for all ages. Contact Shirley Homier-McBrayer through the church office if you have questions.

## Zion Bunco Group

**Monday, November 23, 1:00pm, Fellowship Hall**

Zion Bunco Group usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month (except for on Monday holidays) for a rousing game of Bunco and fellowship. For info contact Shirley Homeier-McBrayer through the church office.

## Dinner Out at The Sicilian Butcher

**Thursday, December 3, 6:30pm**

Located in the Landmark area, the southeast corner of I-10 and 1604, this authentic Italian restaurant features fresh house-made pasta and signature meatballs. For dessert, just walk across the restaurant to the Sicillian Baker, your cannoli and gelato destination. Come early for socializing; dinner seating is at 6:30pm. RSVP to Jim or Sandy Chillstrom.

## Zion Zippers 50+ Fellowship

**Monday, December 14 at 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall**

Zion Zippers meet on the 2nd Monday of each month for a potluck dinner. If you're fifty years or older, you're invited. Please bring a dish or two to share with your Zipper friends. Bring your own plate and utensils if you can, and invite a friend, too! Contact Kathy Newman through the church office if you have a question or suggestion for a guest speaker or activity.

WELCA WOMEN of ZION

You can learn more about Women of Zion and WELCA and WELCA-WOZ information and events by emailing WOZ@ZionSA.org. Hope to see you at in-person events and check out WELCA online website https://www.womenoftheelca.org/.

### Regular Schedule:

- **Monthly WELCA-WOZ Bible Study -** 2nd Tuesdays, 10am-12pm, Fellowship Hall. New study leader is Linnell Brewton. Thank you Rhonda Knisley for your service.
- **Quilting for Lutheran World Relief -** 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall. Sewing experience not required. We will train you!

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, November 15: Thankoffering Service and offering** - Express your gratitude to God for his blessings in significant and ordinary moments. Be thinking of your blessings – Create a "Note" page in your phone to track your blessings. Proceeds go to Churchwide WELCA to support the ministries of WELCA and the Church.
- **Saturday, December 12: Christmas Tea, 2-4pm**, **Family Life Center** – Charity-Childsafe-SA, Shopping opportunities, A 'don't miss' event!!

## Crafty Bunch

**Wednesdays at 9am**

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 left. Bring your own project to work on. Contact Bonnie Harrell if you have any questions.

## Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

**1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall**

Even if you don't sew, consider learning some basics with LWR Quilters! Contact Diane Stewart through the church office if you need more details.

*The LWR Quilters are always in need of new and gently used twin size and larger flat sheets for quilt backing. Sheets can be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall during any quilting time.*

## Exercise/Balance Class

**Tuesdays, 9am, Church 2**

Join us any Tuesday! Did you know that exercise and using your creative mind can help your physical and mental well-being?

- It lowers stress and anxiety.
- It releases feel-good chemicals.
- It helps process complex emotions.
- It helps build social connections.

## Walking Club

**Led by Zion Member**
**Cindy Morawski**
**Tuesday, November 17, 10am**

If you are interested in some exercise, outdoor experiences with nature, and conversations and friendships the Walking Club may be for you. On November 17, we will walk at Crownridge Canyon Park, 7222 Luskey Blvd. We'll meet at the trailhead's pavilion by the parking lot to get started at 10am. Please let me know if you're joining us so I can look for you. Those of you starting out at Braun Station West and who want to carpool, please let me know.

This park offers a quiet shaded retreat that feels far removed from our surrounding urban sprawl. The trailhead features a covered pavilion with a detailed tile mosaic mural by artist Oscar Alvarado. We'll start out on the Red Oak Trail, a Level 1. It's about a mile in length. For those who want to go on the Bear Grass Trail and the Upper Loop, I'll lead that as well. You will have choices.

LMM
LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH San Antonio

## Men's Fellowship Dinner

**Third Monday, November 16, 6:30pm**

All men are invited to meet at House of Joy Chinese Restaurant, 8407 Bandera Rd, #129. Hot food, cold drinks, warm friends (new and otherwise), thoughtful study, upcoming events and whatever ideas for Men's Ministry you bring along!! Friends invited...bring some! Contact us at lmm@zionsa.org if you need more details.

## Men's Breakfast

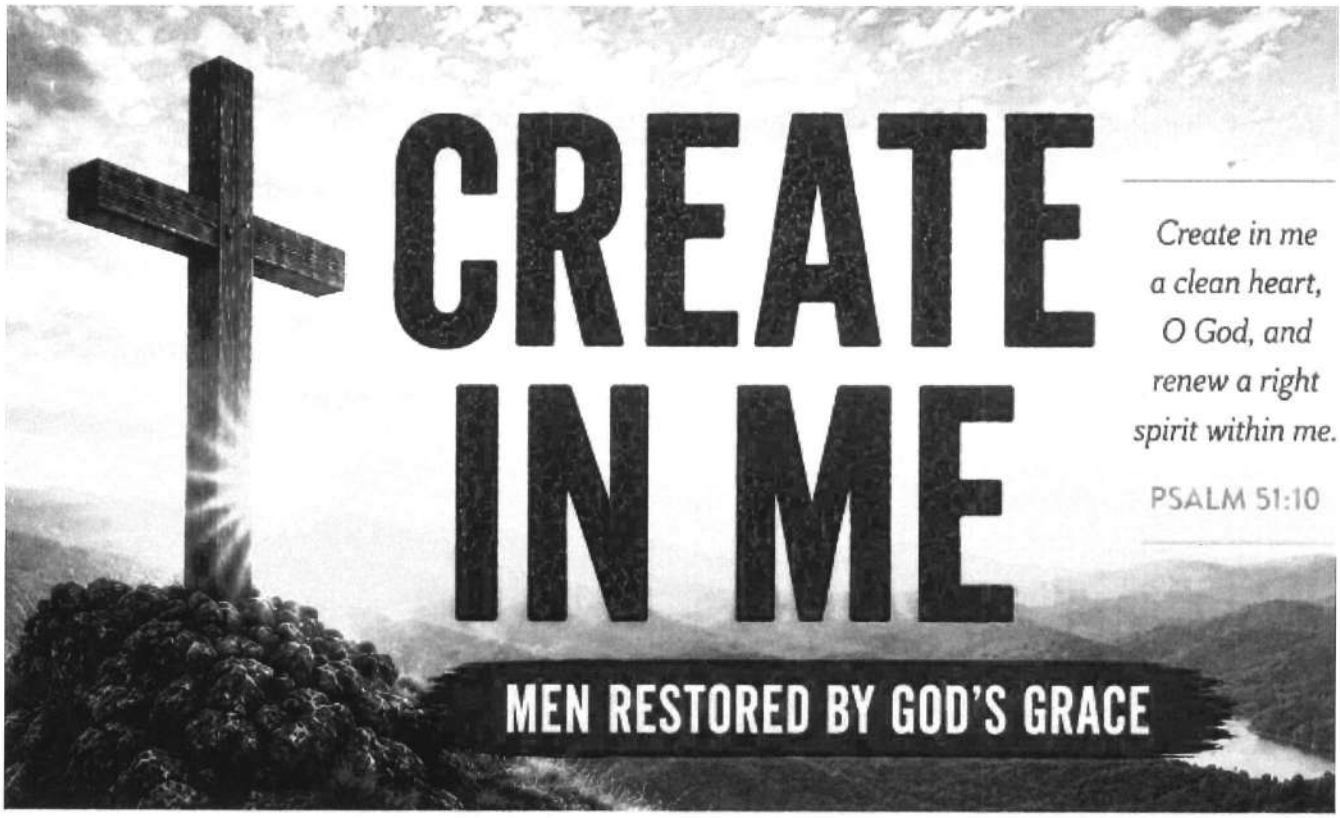
**2nd Saturday each month**
**Fellowship Hall**




**December 12 Speaker:**
Paul Spehr

- Coffee ready at 7:45am, homemade meal ready at 8am.
- Presenter provides a 30-minute presentation until 8:55am, we conclude by 9am.

*We DO need a head count for food purposes. If you're attending, please sign up in the Narthex.*




*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

PSALM 51:10

# MEN'S GATHERING

## EXPERIENCE GOD'S MERCY, RENEWAL, AND RESTORATION

Join men from across the area for a powerful day in God's Word.
Be strengthened. Be encouraged. **Be restored.**

### TOPICS INCLUDED:

- The Discipline of Repentance
- The Assurance of Forgiveness
- The Renewal of a Clean Heart
- The Restoration of Joy and Purpose

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*
Psalm 51:12

### SATURDAY
### NOVEMBER 21
### ★ 2026 ★

**8:30 AM – 2:00 PM**

| | |
|---|---|
| **8:30 AM** | Check-In & Fellowship |
| **9:00 AM** | Sessions Begin |
| **12:00 PM** | Lunch Provided |
| **2:00 PM** | Closing |

### LED BY

Pastor Al Jensen,
Zion Lutheran Church

**LUNCH PROVIDED**
**FREE-WILL OFFERING**

**Scan to Register**

ABIDING PRESENCE LUTHERAN CHURCH

14700 San Pedro Ave
San Antonio, TX 78232
210.492.8884

For more information, contact Jay Wenger at jaywenger1212@gmail.com.