

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church!

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*Rooted in Faith   \*   Growing in Spirit   \*   Reaching Out to Those in Need*  
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8:30 am 23rd Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2017

INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ’s coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Member Welcome
Temple Talk - Pine Ridge Center**

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN “Blessed Assurance” ELW #638

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,
we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
☩ God’s love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God’s people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



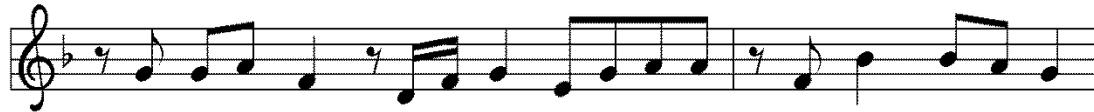
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN & NOISY OFFERING

WORD

PSALM Psalm 70

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** **Pew Bible NT p. 219**

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand)*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 25:1-13** **Pew Bible NT p. 28**

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ. *(please be seated)*

SERMON **Pastor Erin**

HYMN OF THE DAY **"Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness"** **ELW #488**

APOSTLES' CREED *(please stand)*
**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.** *(please be seated)*

OFFERING
The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the "For Children Everywhere" box.

OFFERING HYMN **"Create in Me a Clean Heart"** **ELW #188**

OFFERING PRAYER *(please stand)*
Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need.
The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you.
As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love;
let that love flow through us to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

After each petition: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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,
Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The love of God surround you; the grace of Christ release you;
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN "Let Justice Flow like Streams" ELW #717

POSTLUDE

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LEADING OUR WORSHIP:

Preaching: Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Presiding: Pastor Marcia Sylvester
Pianist: Sue Gates
Lector: Mary Jane Kaburd
Deacon: Mike Bretsch
Acolyte: Hailey Luitjens
Power Point: Judy Albl
Altar Guild Chairs: Karen Dahme – Susan Hook
Sound System: Garry Johnson
Van Driver: Rick Weber
Counters: Lynae Poel - Sharon Paranto
Jeff Vicki Carlson
Coffee Hosts: Zion Youth
Ushers: Darrell Sorensen, Howard Leicht

Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died. Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray....
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

A brief silence.

Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction (*especially*). Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”