

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

9:30 am & 7:00 pm



Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA

530 Sixth Street

International Falls, MN 56649

218-283-9865

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Church Email – zionlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Pastor Mark's Email – pastormarkzion@gmail.com

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG – *Morning Has Broken*

ELW 556



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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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.**

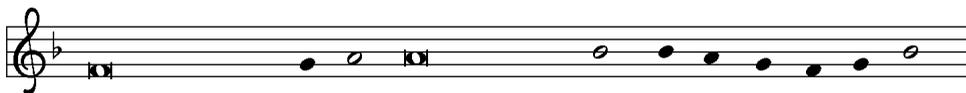
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



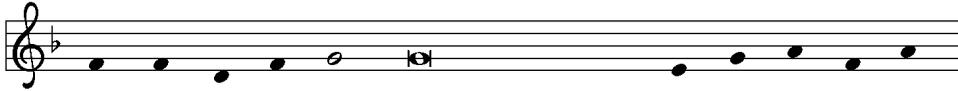
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



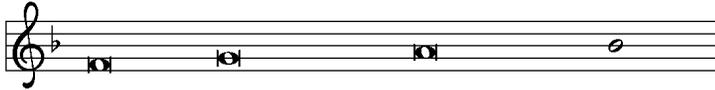
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *This is the Feast*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING – Ezekiel 17:22-24

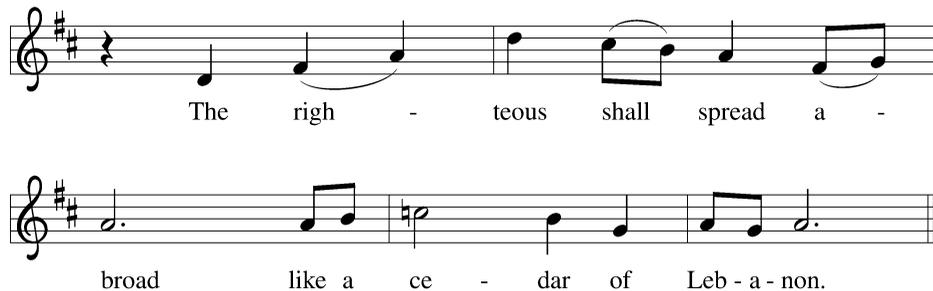
²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY – Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Refrain



The right - teous shall spread a -
broad like a ce - dar of Leb - a - non.

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night; **Refrain**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.

⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands. **Refrain**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God; **Refrain**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
¹⁵that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice. **Refrain**

SECOND READING – 2 Corinthians 5:6-10[11-13]14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.]

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL – Mark 4:24-36

Response – Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Peters



1 Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev - 'ry part is shaped by
 2 Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and mois - ture,
 3 Like a mat you roll out land, space to build for us and



you— wa - ter tum - bling o - ver rocks, air, and sun - light:
 too. Sprout-ing blos - soms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the
 you earth - ly homes and, bet - ter still, homes for Christ: the



each day's signs that you make all things new.
 sea - son's signs that you make all things new.
 tru - est sign that you make all things new.

Text: Ramon and Sario Oliano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice
 Music: GAYOM NI HIGAMI, Ikalahan (Philippines) traditional
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CREED

Along with the church, we confess our faith.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us unite before God in prayer.

Holy God, Fount of blessings, we pray for the church: that the seeds of faith which you plant take root and grow; We pray that churches that are emerging from the pandemic re-gather their members in safety and in faithfulness to you and to one another. Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

We pray for the earth: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. Sustain and restore growth for farms around the globe and may they be safeguarded from drought, flood, and pestilence so that all may be fed; Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

We pray for the nations: that world leaders care for those in greatest need; that all prejudices cease; that the might of tyrants be halted; Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Keep journalists safe from harassment; that the displaced find a welcome homeland; and that peace reign between nations. Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

We pray for the aged: that they be embraced by their relatives and friends; and that their many needs be met. And we pray for the children: that they be protected from harm and danger; and that summertime give them opportunity to enjoy nature's bounty. Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty, homelessness, addiction and mental illness. Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

We pray for health and wholeness: for countries where COVID-19 is accelerating and vaccines are not available; for any who are sick, especially those with no access to medical care; and for those we name here before you now. Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

We pray finally for ourselves: that you give us the grace to welcome anything new that comes from you; Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

For all who have died in the faith, and for those whom we remember here before you, we offer our thanks, gracious Redeemer. For all who will die today, we ask your mercy. And at the end that we join with all your people in the perfection of your presence, we pray. Hear our prayers, O Giver of all goodness: **Grant us your life.**

To you we pray, O God, our Source, Sovereign, and Strength, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE – The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

A TIME OF REFLECTION

OFFERING SONG – Give Thanks

TFF 292

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

(continued on page 14)

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
 rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
 Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

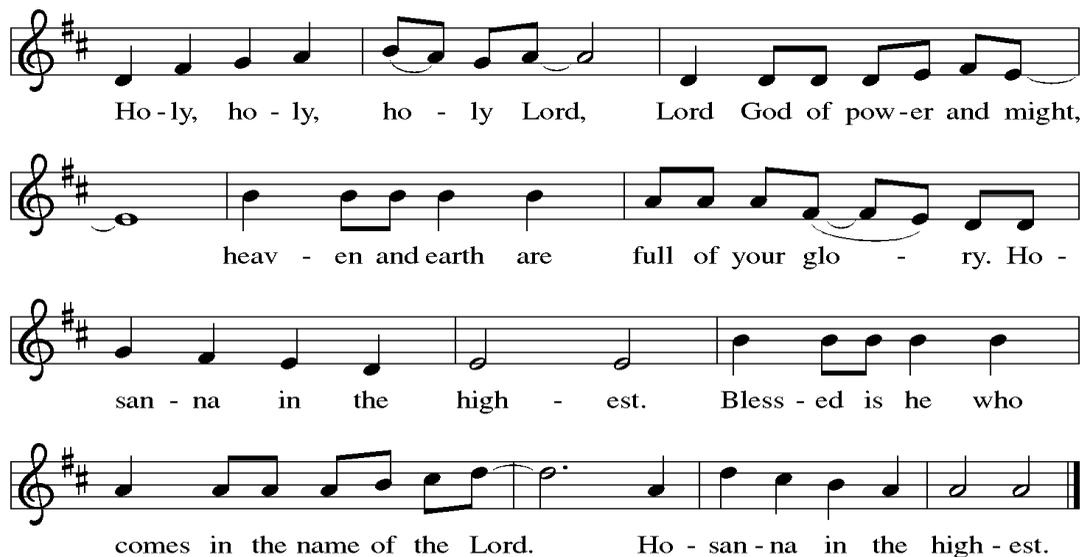
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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, 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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 TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

At this time, open your communion kits and receive the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MEDITATION SONG – *In This Feast of Love*

ACS 962



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us



pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the



it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table

more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

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. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Worship Leaders Today

Preacher

Pastor Mark Peters

Liturgist

Cathy Lucca

Reader

Gail Rognerud

Live Streaming

Ted Saxton (Small Town Tech)

Musician

Joe Belanger

Our Radio Broadcast is sponsored today in memory and honor of John Faith for his ministry to Zion as an audio technician.

Prayer Concerns – Gen Ziemba, Klaus Schumacher, Ron Epley, Jim Stavseth, Mollie Besch and family, Helen Knutson, Susie Battalion, Doug Nagle, Tony Miller, and Kathleen Ganter.

Today's Noisy Offering will be donated to the Backus Community Café.

Our radio broadcast and live streaming will continue at Zion. Sunday's service will be shown on KCC-TV Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm; Monday mornings at 5:30 am and 9:00 am. This is our local access station – Midco Channel 7.

Simply Giving – Simply Giving supports the spiritual practice of giving on a regular basis. This online service (direct deposit to Zion) provides more options and flexibility to grow giving, add income to the church, and enhance cash flow. Simply Giving can strengthen the financial health of Zion and help us in doing God's work together. If you'd like more information or if you're interested in signing up, please contact the church office.

Zion's office hours – The office at Zion is open Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am until 12:00 noon, and by appointment. Masks are still required in the building.

Worship practices – Throughout our worship service, the congregation is asked to stand; other times to be seated. If it's difficult to stand or to stand for extended periods of time, please remain seated.

Sharing the Peace – During the sharing of the peace, simply say “Peace be with you” to those around you without leaving your seat.

Zion's Preparedness Plan – Our Smart Team has revised Zion's Preparedness Plan which was approved by the council May 25 and effective May 28. Please see the June 2021 newsletter or our webpage. Copies of the updated plan are also available at the ushers stand.

Communion at home – Even though we have resumed in-person worship at Zion, our radio broadcast and live streaming will continue. Participating in the sacrament of Holy Communion is encouraged, even if you are worshipping *virtually*. Communion kits will be available at the church, or you may use elements at home (wine/grape juice, bread).

ATTENDANCE

May 30

9:30 am – 34, 7:00 pm – 10

June 6

9:30 am – 41, 7:00 pm – 17

GOSPEL MESSAGE – Cradle of Life

In the parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed we hear Jesus using agricultural imagery to give us some sense of what the kingdom of God is about. Our reflections and interpretations of these parables usually focus on what they tell us about God's kingdom and how God works in our lives. From these two parables we can gather that the kingdom grows. More specifically, we may say that God provides harvest and shelter. One of the points of parables is to engage our thinking and to keep us asking questions. What else might we see here?

The mustard seed grows into a shrub in which birds can make nests. Bird nests are one of the small wonders of this world. The sort of nest one might find in a tree may be made from sticks, grasses, and spider webs. The bird gathers all of this and may add saliva to weave it into a well-shaped cup to cradle the eggs that will hatch into new life. All of this is done with a beak and two feet. In these nests we see resourcefulness, patience, skill, and elegant design. In the shade of the mustard bush the bird has the freedom to construct something beautiful, practical, and life-giving.

Perhaps this is part of what it means for us to live in God's kingdom. Through Jesus we are given the freedom to use our gifts to make beautiful, practical, life-giving things. We build houses and neighborhoods, families and relationships; we make art and music, friendships and promises. In the shade of grace we are given space to thrive, not simply for our own sake, but for the sake of the world. We can gather in the things of resurrection life: forgiveness, kindness, mercy, compassion, and love. Woven together these acts of faith lead to hope, and hope is always a cradle for new life.