

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

July 30, 2023 at 9:15am

Sanctuary & Facebook Live

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140TH ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love is This”

Caleb Staehr

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.



1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
 2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
 God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
 heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSIC & OFFERING "Rivers Delight" by David Von Kampen

Caleb Staehr

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion.

The Offering Box is near the back, pulpit side and you can also go online at www.zionrockford.com, or you can click on the QR code

The Prayer Table is available for you to write a prayer request
 and place on the cross on the table.

Prayer requests will be shared with a group of people who pray at Zion.
 You may take a prayer shawl from the worship space if you would like.



FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" Red Hymnal #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below each staff. The first staff has the lyrics 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.' The second staff has 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.' The third and fourth staves have 'When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.' The fifth staff has 'Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.'

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind;

⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

SERMON Pastor Steve Erickson

SERMON SONG “O Master Let Me Walk With You”

Red Hymnal #818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (anointing with oil) and prayer, please come to the rail as you feel led. This is a time to pray at your seat, or you may light a candle at the prayer stations.

You can request a prayer at the prayer station or at the rail for yourself or others.

Feel free to pray, sing, sit in silence and pray for others.

SONG

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Red Hymnal #616

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 7/4 time signature. It contains a melody with a final note tied to the second system. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody from the first system, ending with a double bar line. The bottom staff continues the harmonic accompaniment, also ending with a double bar line.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

TABLE BLESSING

“Here Is Bread”

by Graham Kendrick

Here is bread, here is wine; Christ is with us, he is with us
Break the bread, drink the wine; Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace; Christ is with us, he is with us
Know his grace, find his peace; Feast on Jesus here

Refrain: In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here

Here we are, joined in one
Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes , Jesus crucified

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.

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Please peel open the top part of the communion container for the wafer.

Please peel the other side of the container for the juice.

There are baskets in the middle and the back for disposal of your communion cups.

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

Amen.

Let us pray: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Red Hymnal #705

(Words on next page)

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the harvest. Dance in community.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare" by Lemmen

Caleb Staehr

God of Grace and God of Glory



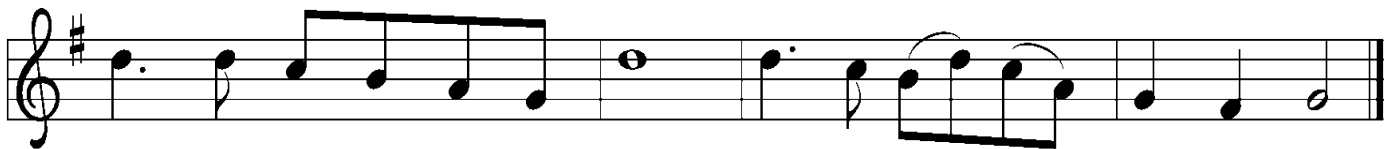
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

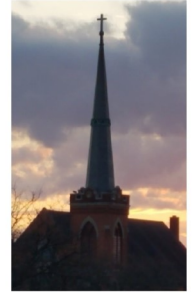


Ruthie's Kitchen

Open Saturdays
1:00-3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
964 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

Because God created everyone....
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
BLACK LIVES MATTER
love is love
PEOPLE & PLANET OVER PROFITS
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
Women's Rights are Human Rights
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKFORD, IL



ZION MULTICULTURAL TEAM is asking the Zion congregation to join them in participating in this towel drive in memory of Charmaine Logwood, a Zion member, former social worker at Jubilee Center who passed in October, 2022. What we still need for reopening the showers are white towels (so they can be bleached). Specifically large towels, like a beach towel (at least 30x60).

WELCA will be collecting food for Cornucopia Food Pantry. Food is in short supply and hard to obtain from the Food Bank. Peggy King, Cornucopia Director, will give me a quarterly list of what they need, but any food item is appreciated. A grocery cart will be in the Narthex for your donations or you can leave them in the volunteer office. July items: **Canned vegetables**; August items: **Canned fruit** - Thank you for your support.



ZION'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2023—How wonderful it is to celebrate the legacy of Zion.

The Chairs are Ron Simmons and Jane Lightcap, Team Members are Karen Kermgard, Pastoral Intern Alana Harms, Margaret Hallin, and Bonnie Dahlberg
Contact them, or Pastor Mike with ideas, questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

Please join us for Zion's
140th Anniversary Celebration!
Date: September 10, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm
Place: Mau-Nah-Tee-See Club
5151 Guilford Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Please return reservation with payment by August 25th to:
Zion Lutheran Church—925 Fifth Avenue—Rockford, IL 61104
(Forms are available in the Narthex, and office)

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

<https://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford>

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Thank you to Pastor Steve Erickson and our special guest musician Caleb Staehr. Please join us after worship today for coffee, conversation and a snack, in the Fellowship Hall.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship—Fellowship Hall
Monday	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
Wednesday	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
Thursday	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—Katie's Cup (until 1pm)
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
Saturday	9:00am	Cars and Coffee—RPS Parking Lot
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

August 5	Cars & Coffee—RPS Parking Lot
August 18	Game Night at the Blackhawk Farm, 2-4pm
September 9	Midtown Strong Block Party— 201 7th Street, Noon-6pm
October 20	Harvest Celebration/Watermelon Festival, 2-4pm - Buddy House

A KATIE'S CUP CONVERSATION

“Suicide & Overdose..”



Tuesday, August 8 at Noon
Jennifer Muraski
 County Coroner

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Alana Harms, the Zion Church Council, Pastor Caleb Uk of the Burmese congregation; the Zion Staff, Zion Outreach Board, Staff and Programs of Patriots Gateway Center, Katie's Cup and Zion Development Corporation.
- ◇ Pastor Shadrack Langu of Sepuka Parish
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Sepuka/Msisi Church in Tanzania.
- ◇ For the Northern Illinois Synod; North Conference churches; Midtown Lutheran Parish, faculty and students of Rockford Lutheran Schools, Rockford Area Lutheran Ministries.
- ◇ For those who grieve the loss of: Bruce Olson.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Kurt Brown, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Sharon Habing, Deanna Hartenberg, Mike Nelson, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer and Ingrid Tryggestad.



If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Alana. The prayer room is upstairs to the left of the sanctuary and is available during office hours and on Sunday before and after worship services.