

# Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

July 23, 2023 at 9:15am

Sanctuary & Facebook Live

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE

“Simple Gifts”

arr. By Mark Hayes

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 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;
- 4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.  
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;  
 Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.  
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.  
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.  
 Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## MUSIC & OFFERING "Seed That in Earth is Dying" Arr. Bradley Ellingboe

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](http://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 Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,  
and a band of violent people seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;  
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25


<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider

that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;<sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;<sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.<sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.<sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.<sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’<sup>28</sup> He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’<sup>29</sup> But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.<sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”<sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;<sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,<sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.<sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,<sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Steve Erickson



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**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.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## TABLE BLESSING "As The Grains of Wheat"

Red Hymnal #465



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres-ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## 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

**"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"**  
(see next page for music)

Red Hymnal #547

## SENDING

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**"Allegra"**

By Henry Purcell

# Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



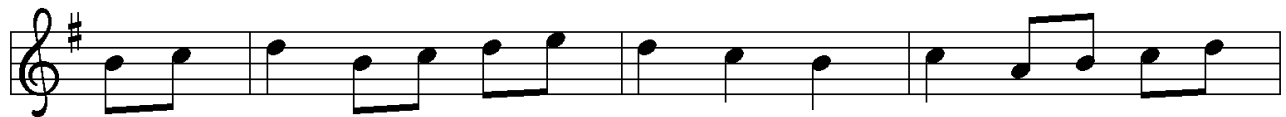
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

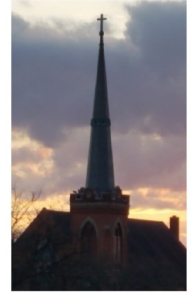


Ruthie's Kitchen

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. June items: **Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, etc.)** - Thank you for your support.



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

We are looking for ideas and volunteers to lead in areas of celebration.

Please continue to help us plan events and activities.

The Chairs are Ron Simmons and Jane Lightcap

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>

[www.youtube.com/zionrockford](http://www.youtube.com/zionrockford)

Please subscribe to the Zion YouTube channel

<https://twitter.com/ZionRockford>



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### PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
Monday	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Youth Center
Tuesday	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
	6:00pm	Church Council Picnic—Sinnissippi Band Shell
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)
	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons—Youth Center
	10:00am	4-H Kitchen Use (10am-4pm)
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship—Fellowship Hall

### 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



## 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

*SEPTEMBER 10, 2023*

**“BE THE BODY: TODAY & TOMORROW”**

### 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, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Sharon Habing, Deanna Hartenberg, Mike Nelson, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer and Ingrid Tryggstad.



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.