

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

September 24, 2023 at 9:15am

Sanctuary & Facebook Live

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140TH ANNIVERSARY

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

"Awesome In This Place"

by Dave Billington

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

GREETING

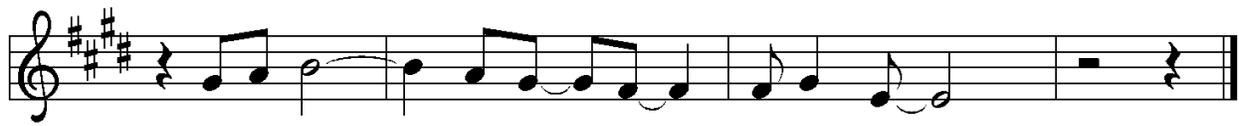
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (*Kyrie eleison means "Lord, have mercy"*)

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

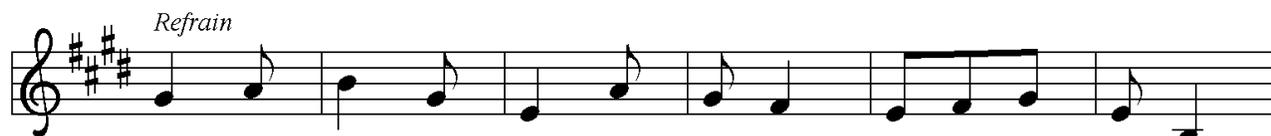
Refrain



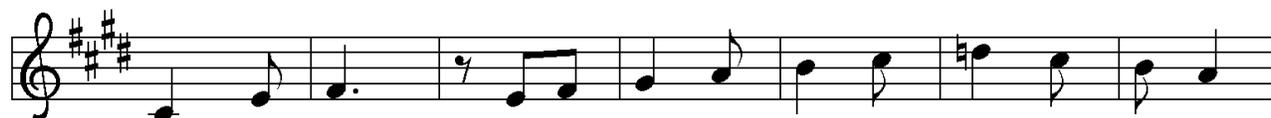
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE "Now the Feast and Celebration" Red Hymnal #167

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



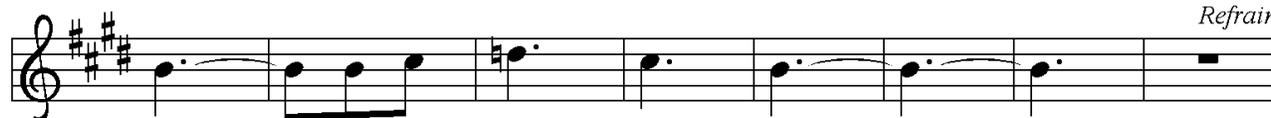
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“I Won’t Move”

by Life Church Worship, Soloist: Daysha McClain

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.



THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that

he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night."¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

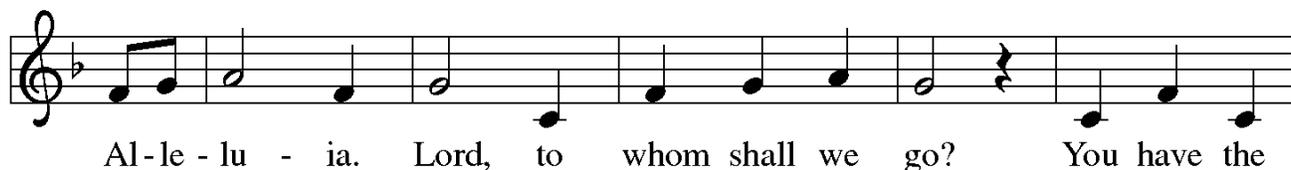
²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence

of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’

⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

SERMON

Pastor Michael Thomas

SERMON SONG

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

Red Hymnal #768

Chorus: Lead me, guide me, along the way.

For if you lead me, I cannot stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
To help me over my weakest hour,
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see,
Lord, just always let me thy servant be
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (Chorus)

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

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

Red Hymnal #751

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

TABLE BLESSING

“Bind Us Together”

Chorus: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together Lord;
bind us together in love.

1. There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. (Chorus)

2. You are the fam'ly of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. (Chorus)

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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.

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

DEAR FRIENDS OF ZION, Missions Team would like to collect money rather than collect items for school kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. The approximate cost to deliver Quilts & Kits Overseas: one quilt - \$2.25; one school kit - \$1.40; one personal care kit - \$2.65. For over 75 years, the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry has worked with caring people like us to share God's love with families around the world. Make your check out to Zion and then mark it for Lutheran World Relief. We will send in one check. The gift you give is an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. Thank you for your generosity. There is a box in the back of the Sanctuary for your generous donations, thank you! Also, we will have a host site for drop off the Weekend of October 7th and 8th, 2023. The Zion Mission Team.



Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering

October 7 9am-Noon

October 8: Noon-3pm



WELCA & Food Pantry!

Cornucopia Food is in short supply of **CEREAL** and it can't be obtained from the Food Bank. Peggy King, Cornucopia Director informs us there is a great need for **CEREAL!** A grocery cart will be in the back of the worship space for donations or you can leave them in the church office. September items: **CEREAL.**

Flower ministry sponsorships are available.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Neal & Deb Tolodxi,
In Honor of their 29th Anniversary today.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS

Reader Neal Tolodxi

Music Jodi Beach

Drums -Tom Marken Bass—Jim McDowell



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



HOME COMING SUNDAY



OCTOBER 15, 2023

140TH ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 TASTE OF ZION ETHNIC FOOD

SPECIAL MUSIC: TRINADORA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104

ZION PARTNER SUNDAY



OCTOBER 22, 2023

140TH ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 ZION PARTNER HISTORY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - 925 FIFTH AVENUE - ROCKFORD, IL 61104

WOZ Donuts in Park

Where: Sinnissippi Park shelter by golf course.

Date: September 28th

Time: 9:30



BYO drink We'll have yummy donuts.

Gentlemen are invited.

Jane Burden will speak on funeral pre-planning.

And - you'll get a chance to chat
with our super new Intern Rachel.

See you there! Happy Fall Y'all!

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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

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* Pattern of Worship—resource from ELW pages 91-93

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship—(Prayer Candles)
Monday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Miss Carly's Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
	9:30am	Book Study—Library
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Youth Center
Tuesday	7:00am	Mayor's Hunger Campaign Breakfast
	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	5:00pm	Human Resources—Library
	6:00pm	Church Council—Youth Center
Wednesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	3:00pm	Patriot's Gateway Executive Board
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Katie's Cup Executive Committee—Katie's Cup
	9:00am	Rockford Midtown Market—Katie's Cup (until 1pm)
	9:30am	WOZ Donuts in the Park—Sinnissippi
	4:30pm	Patriot's Board
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons –Youth Center
Saturday	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

October 7 & 8	Lutheran World Relief Collection, back parking lot Zion
October 7	Cars and Coffee, pork chop sandwiches—RPS Parking Lot
October 15	Homecoming Sunday Worship, Followed by Taste of Zion
October 15	CROP Walk
October 20	Harvest Celebration/Watermelon Festival, 2-4pm - Buddy House
October 22	Worship—Zion Partner's Forum

PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Pastoral Intern Rachel Perkins, 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 Cosmas Mujungu 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 loved ones.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Stephanie Aitken, Colette Buchert, Yolanda Churchill, Jim Duhigg, Deanna Hartenberg, Vanda Nielsen, Debbie Raymond, Linda Reinhardt, Becky Sharpe, Wayne Spitzer, and Neal Tolodxi.



If you have a prayer request or a prayer of thanksgiving to share, please notify Pastor Mike or Pastoral Intern Rachel. 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.