

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
October 19, 2025 at 9:15am

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ELCA

PRELUDE “In The Presence of Jehovah” arr. By Mark Hayes

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✝ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

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

Refrain

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

2 That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

3 For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

4 For your spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glorify Thy Name”

Father we love You, We worship and adore You.

(Chorus)

Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You. (Chorus)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

SONG "I told Jesus it would be all right if he changed my Name"
Dorothy Paige Turner

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Wind of the Spirit"

Wind of the Spirit, move fresh as we worship
and fill us with hope ev'ry day. Breath of creation,
blow life in our being, and gift us with purpose, we pray;
so our life is filled with meaning, and love is what we're breathing
in the wind of the Spirit, wind of the Spirit.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

SERMON Pastor Michael Thomas & Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama

SERMON SONG "Day by Day" Red Hymnal #790

1. Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.

Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.

Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;

Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, where at last I'll find eternal rest.

- 2 Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

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 PEOPLE

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.**

PRAYER CANDLES

*This is a time of prayer at your seat or light a candle at the two prayer stations.
You can request a prayer at the prayer table by the piano.
Feel free to pray, sing, sit in silence and pray for others.*

SONG “May the God of All Healing” Red Hymnal #220
 May the God of all healing enfold us in love,
 fill us with peace, and lead us to wholeness and strength.

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.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING “In the Presence of Jehovah” Jodi Beach

Offering envelopes are available in the pews at your seat to designate gifts toward the ministries of Zion. The Offering Box is by the prayer table.

You can also go online at www.zionrockford.com
or you can click on the QR code.



TABLE BLESSING “We Eat the Bread of Teaching”

Red Hymnal #518

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.

Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

1 Wisdom calls throughout the city, knows our hunger, and in pity gives her loving invitation to the banquet of salvation. *Refrain*

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom,
are given here a taste of the kingdom.

Together joined, the greatest and the least,
we all are one at Wisdom's holy feast.

2. Simple ones whose hearts are yearning,
come and gain from Wisdom's learning;
bread and wine she is preparing,
know her loving in the sharing. *Refrain*

3. Enter with delight and singing, for her richness now is bringing
us this joyful celebration; eat and drink in jubilation. *Refrain*

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 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.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Please come forward for communion today up front. Receive the wafer with an open hand.

The cups of wine are red and juice is in the center and the juice is clear.

There are individual communion cups at the prayer table. Dispose of them in the lobby.

COMMUNION SONGS "You Are Holy" Red Hymnal #525

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

"Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
And we light our hearts before You as a token of our love
Holy, holy, holy, holy.

Gracious Father, gracious Father,
We're so blest to be Your children, gracious Father.
And we lift our heads before You as a token of our love,
Gracious Father, gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, precious Jesus,
We're so glad that You've redeemed us, precious Jesus.
And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love.
Precious Jesus, precious Jesus.

Hallelujah.....

And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love.

Hallelujah.....

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 Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG

"He Leadeth Me"

1 He leadeth me: oh, blessed thought!

Oh, words with heav'nly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me.

His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's
bowers bloom, by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. *Refrain*

3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine; content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. *Refrain*

4. And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the vict'ry's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. *Refrain*

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“He Leadeth Me”

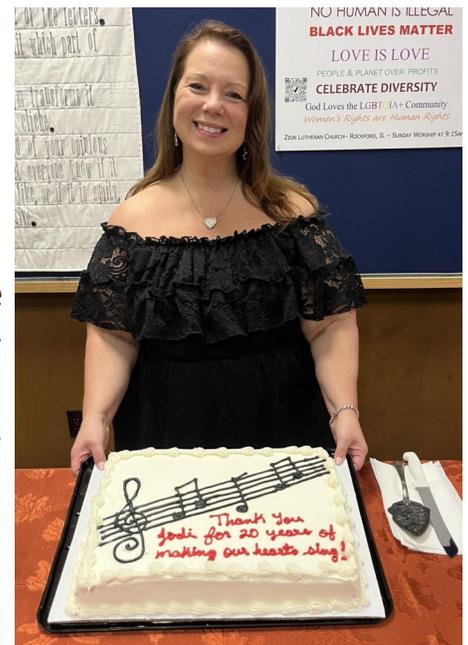
THANK YOU JODI FOR 20 YEARS OF MUSIC MINISTRY

My Dear Zion Family,

Sitting here tonight with tears in my eyes and joy in my heart, I've been reading all your precious notes, admiring the magnificent bouquet of white roses, and reflecting on the memories of this special day. It feels like it was not that long ago that I first walked through the doors of Zion—like so many of you—as a “walking wounded” person. The gentle persistence and love I felt from Pastor Denver brought me through the door, but the love I received from all of you made Zion my home. Pastor Michael, it has been an honor to serve under your leadership these last 15 years—and hopefully for many more to come! I am so thankful for every pastor, intern, and worship committee member with whom I've had the joy of serving through the years. So thankful for every singer and musician with whom I've had the joy of making music. And so very thankful for every member of Zion with whom I've had the joy of sharing worship for 20 years!

Thank you to all who helped make the fellowship time after church so special. The cake was so beautiful, and such a surprise! Thank you to those who tirelessly serve in the kitchen, and to everyone who wrote cards filled with such tender, thoughtful messages. Thank you as well for all the hugs and love throughout the years! You have all made me feel deeply loved—today more than ever. Thank you also for loving my husband and caring for him during this time of healing. Twenty years ago, Zion was a place I *worked*. Through the years, you have made it a place I am honored and grateful to call my *church* and my *home*.

With much love and gratitude, Jodi



WORSHIP LEADERS

Would you like to be a Communion Assistant, Reader, Sound, Usher, Greeter or Worship Host? You could have the assignment on the first, second, third or fourth Sunday of each month at the 9:15am worship service. Please talk with Pastor or let the church office know if you are available, interested or have a question.

WOMEN OF ZION

During the month of October we are requesting donations of **Canned meats—tuna, chicken, etc.** (Also cereal is always in demand) for distribution at the Cornucopia Food Pantry. There is a great need for these items! A grocery cart is in the Narthex for donations, or you can bring them to the church office. You can donate to Cornucopia on our church website and we pass along the donation to the pantry organization. Thanks so much!

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



ZION FORUM
October 19, 2025
10:30am in Fellowship Hall

RON SIMMONS "GOOD TROUBLE"

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A CONVERSATION WITH RON SIMMONS AND OTHER

Sponsored and Held at Zion Lutheran Church - 925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104

ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: "Seasons of Faith"

October 29, 2025 from 4:00-6:00pm

Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



All Saints Day

November 2, 2025
9:15am Worship

"Light A Candle...and
Remember Your Loved Ones..."

Zion Lutheran Church



Thank you Sunday! Student Pastor Rachel!

November 2, 2025
10:15am
Fellowship & Photos

Student Pastor Rachel Perkins-Gama has been called to serve Alpine Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL. Worship includes a "Godspeed & Farewell" service!

Zion Lutheran Church – 925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL



FREE TURKEY BASKET

Call Zion Lutheran Church
For A FREE Basket!
PICK-UP TBD

Looking for donations!
\$25.00 each basket!
Checks made out to
Zion Lutheran Church



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PRAYER CORNER! WE ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:



- ◇ The ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Stacie Fidler, Pastor Thomas, Student Pastor Rachel Perkins, Pastor Emeritus Denver Bitner, 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.
- ◇ Senior Pastor Ndeshifose Akyoo, Assisting Pastor Evan Kiula, and Assisting Pastor Yohanna Samson Ntui of Sepuka Parish (Tanzania)
- ◇ Pastor Selvakumar and Arcot Lutheran Church in India and Pastor Mytch Dorvilier in Senegal.
- ◇ 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: Linda Reinhardt and Harriet Basel.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Danielle, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Jerry Stalcup, Carl Stoutenberg, Neal Tolodxi, Brian Veitch, and Gary Wegner, Jr.

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

WORSHIP LEADER'S TODAY

Communion Asst.	Connie Heden and Jane Lightcap
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Ron Simmons and Yolanda Golden
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship
	10:30am	Forum: Ron Simmons "Good Trouble" Scholarship Fund
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	9:30am	Book Study—Multipurpose Room
Tuesday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
Thursday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

October 29	4:00pm	Rooftop Reflections—Embassy Suites Rooftop
November 2	9:15am	All Saints Day of Remembrance
November 9	10:30am	Forum: Medicare
November 16	10:30am	Forum: Olson Funeral Home
November 23	9:15am	Worship in the Fellowship Hall
	10:30am	Advent and Christmas Decorating at Zion!
December 9	12:30am	WOZ Christmas Lunch/White Elephant Gift Exchange-Stockholm Inn

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