

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois
July 27, 2025 at 9:15am

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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PRELUDE "May Jesus Christ Be Praised" arr. By Theresa Wilhelmi

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
**you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and
follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround
us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in
doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on
us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through
faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy
Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new
creation.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

Red Hymnal #853

- 1 When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised! When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 2 When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised! God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare with "Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 3 No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!
- 4 Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!
- 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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.

Verses

- 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.
- 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. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²

Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

(Congregation reads the bold)

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-19

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to

human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses,¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths.¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ.¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking,¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

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 11th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”² So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

SERMON

Pastor Steve Erickson

SERMON SONG "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" Red Hymnal #742

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged-- take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

“Healing Is In Your Hands”

Jodi Beach

(Words and Music by Daniel Carson, Christy Nockels, Nathan Nockels, Matt Redman, and Chris Tomlin)

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*

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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
 that calls me from a world of care,
 and bids me at my Father's throne
 make all my wants and wishes known.

In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief,
 and oft escaped the tempter's snare
 by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
thy wings shall my petition bear to him whose truth and faithfulness
 engage the waiting soul to bless;
 and since he bids me seek his face,
 believe his word and trust his grace,
 I'll cast on him my ev'ry care,
 and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
may I thy consolation share,
till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height
I view my home and take my flight.
With joy I'll hasten to the place
where God my Savior shows his face,
and gladly take my station there,
thy promise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

“Beautiful Savior” Red Hymnal # 838

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky.

4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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 res-
urrection that we may show your glory to all the world. Through Christ,
our risen Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG “Lord, Be Glorified” Red Hymnal #744

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Be Glorified” arr. By Mark Hayes

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 August we are requesting donations of **Pancake Mix and syrup** 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!

The WOZ board



WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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

^ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

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.
 - ◇ Pastor Cosmas Mujungu 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: family of Kathy Swan, family of Mike Markley, family of Sonita Simmons, family of Phyllis Mott, family of Tina Myers, Tom & Judy Janusevic.
 - ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Phyllis Brynteson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Ruth Dahlberg, Danielle, Jim McDowell, Neal Tolodxi, Linda Reinhardt, Gary Retner, Jr, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Sandy Swenson, Jeanne Thomas, Brian Veitch, and Mary Wedel.
- 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.

Fellowship:	In Honor of Geri Swan's Birthday
Media:	
Music:	Jodi Beach
Reader:	Jane Burden
Sound:	Deangelo Brunson
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg & Kamyra Brunson

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship in honor of Geri Swan's Birthday
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room
Monday	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	8:00am	Book Study—Stockholm Inn
Saturday	9:00am	Cars & Coffee Rockford—RPS Parking Lot across from Katie's Cup
	1:00pm	Ruthie's Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room