

Zion Lutheran Church

925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

October 1, 2023 at 9:15am

[www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH



140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PRELUDE

“Redeemed”

arr. By Mark Hayes

WELCOME

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

### 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.**

GATHERING SONG "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"  
Red Hymnal #857

Lord, I lift your name on high.  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life.  
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth,  
to show the way.  
From the earth to the cross,  
my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky.  
Lord, I lift your name on high.

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"*)  
(*Music on Next Page*)

*Refrain*



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



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



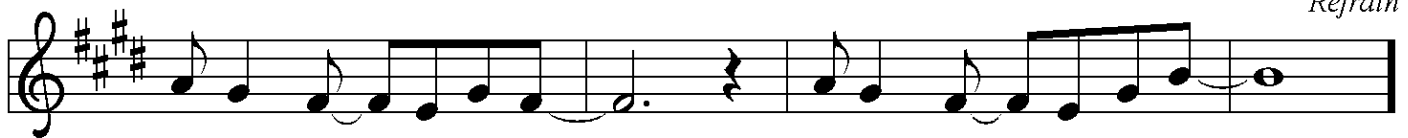
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



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



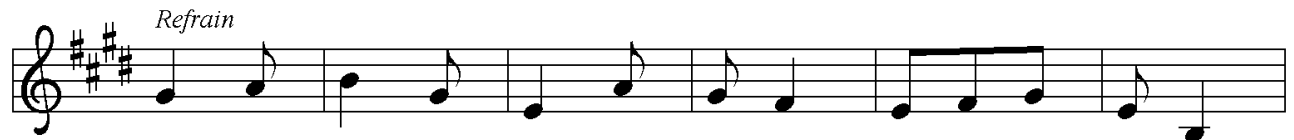
this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



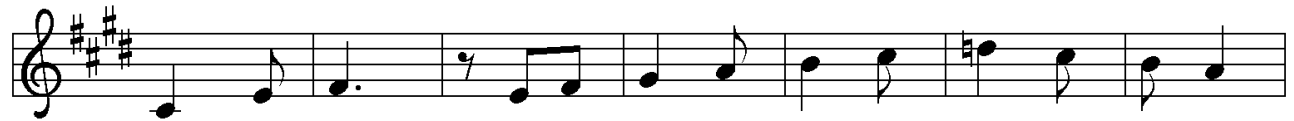
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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

*Refrain*



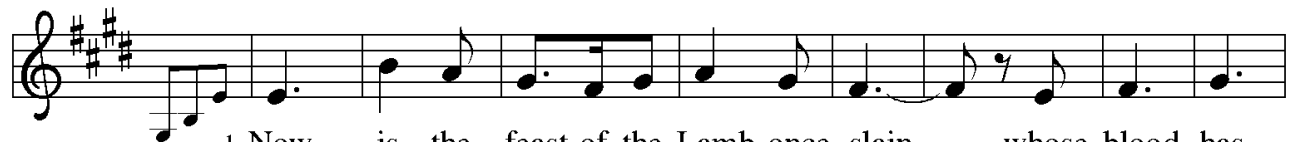
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## MUSIC & OFFERING

“For the Autumn Sky”

words and music by Ruth Elaine Schram

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.

## THE WORD

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

### FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. <sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do

what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-9

(Congregation reads the bold)

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my  
salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and  
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

SERMON      Pastor Michael Thomas



SERMON SONG

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has a vocal line with lyrics: "Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord. Come and". The second system has a vocal line with lyrics: "quench this thirst-ing of my soul. Bread of heav-en, feed me till I". The third system has a vocal line with lyrics: "want no more; fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: F7, Bb, F7, Cm, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Cm7, F7, Bb.

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

“Here Is Bread”

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

## 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.

**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.**

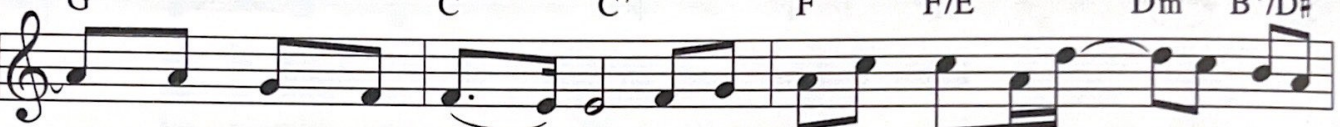
## COMMUNION SONG "Holy, Holy"

C Em<sup>7</sup>/B Am<sup>7</sup> C/G FM<sup>7</sup> F<sup>6</sup> G<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm<sup>7</sup>



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,  
 2 Gracious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther, we're so blest to be your  
 3 Pre - cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus, we're so glad that you've re -  
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it, come and fill our hearts a -  
 5 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, . . .

G<sup>7</sup> C C<sup>7</sup> F F/E Dm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>7</sup>/D<sup>#</sup>



Lord God Al - might - y; and we lift our hearts be - fore you as a  
 chil - dren, gra - cious Fa - ther; and we lift our heads be - fore you as a  
 deemed us, pre - cious Je - sus; and we lift our hands be - fore you as a  
 new, . . . Ho - ly Spir - it; and we lift our voice be - fore you as a  
 . . . . . hal - le - lu - jah; and we lift our hearts be - fore you as a

Em Em<sup>7</sup> Am Dm G<sup>7</sup> F/C C



to - ken of our love, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.  
 to - ken of our love, gra - cious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther.  
 to - ken of our love, pre - cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus.  
 to - ken of our love, Ho - ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it.  
 to - ken of our love, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

## BLESSING

**The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

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

SENDING SONG      “Shine, Jesus, Shine”      Red Hymnal #671

Chorus: Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, light of the world shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Chorus)

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,  
So our faces display your likeness;  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. (Chorus)

SENDING

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**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. Volunteers are always welcome, 9am-Noon Saturday and Noon-3pm Sunday. The Zion Mission Team.

**Flower ministry sponsorships are available.**

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Jodi Beach,  
In Honor of their 8th Anniversary (October 2nd).

**SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS**

Reader                      Deb Raymond

Music                        Jodi Beach

**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, Norma Daugherty, 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.

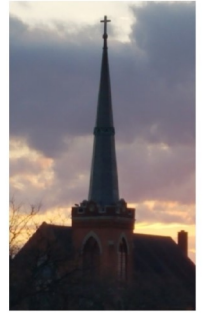


## Ruthie's Kitchen

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



## 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. October items: **CEREAL**.

## HOMECOMING SUNDAY



OCTOBER 15, 2023

140<sup>TH</sup> 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

140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

9:15AM WORSHIP

10:30 ZION PARTNER HISTORY

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

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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\* 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
	9:30am	Book Study—Library
	1:00pm	Bag Fluffing—Youth Center
Tuesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
Wednesday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	8:00am	Bible Study—Stockholm Inn
	5:00pm	Private Music Lessons—Choir Room
	5:00pm	WOW—Fellowship Hall
Thursday	8:00am	RVC ESL—Marander Room
	9:00am	Miss Carly’s Sandwich Prep—Kitchen
Friday	9:00am	Private Music Lessons –Youth Center
Saturday	9:00am	Lutheran World Relief Collection, back parking lot
	9:00am	Cars and Coffee, pork chop sandwiches-RPS Parking Lot
	1:00pm	Ruthie’s Kitchen
Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Around the Tables
	12:00pm	Lutheran World Relief Collection, back parking lot

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

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
October 24	Church Council—Youth Center, 6:00pm
November 22	Thanksgiving Eve Worship—Virtual/Prerecorded
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship, 10:00pm (Sunday)