

Zion Lutheran Church
925 5th Avenue - Rockford, Illinois

October 26, 2025 at 9:15am

www.facebook.com/zionlutheranrockford

REFORMATION SUNDAY



PRELUDE

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.

GATHERING SONG “Amazing Grace Forever!”

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod; and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe, has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might; he arms himself to fight.
Amazing grace forever

2. God's grace guides us through every storm.
To lead us so there can be reform
We are like clay in holy hands, the cross will guide us as we stand
When we try to be good, we fail just as we would
To earn this holy grace, the cross is in our place.
Amazing grace forever

3. We try to love but fail we do, self-centered lives for me and you
When we admit that we are wrong, the empty tomb will be our song
When we refuse to trust, we surely will be lost.
Though help is on our way,
God's grace will be our stay.
Amazing grace forever

4. From Bethlehem to Calvary, this one whose love has set us free.
Our call through water and the word, this is the gospel we have heard.
When troubles make you blue. God's hope is here for you.
The holy one is here.
This love is always near.
Amazing grace forever.

*Verse one—Martin Luther
Verse 2-4—Michael E. Thomas

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 God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

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

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their

hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

(Congregation reads the bold)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God. Word of Promise.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

Red Hymnal #509

God's word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

SERMON Pastor Steve Erickson

SERMON SONG "The Church's One Foundation" Red Hymnal #654

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder, this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

MUSIC & OFFERING

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

"Amazing Grace"

Red Hymnal #779

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear; the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise; than when we'd first begun.

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Chorus:

Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain my Lord spoke
Out of His mouth came fire and smoke
Looked all around me, it looked so fine
I asked my Lord if all was mine. (Chorus)

Jordan river, is chilly an' cold It chills the body but not the soul
There ain't one train, upon this track
It runs to heaven, and runs right back. (Chorus)

Down in the valley, when I feel weak
It's when the devil, use'ly speaks
Because he's crafty, and full of lies
I need the Spirit to keep me wise. (Chorus)

“My Hope is Built On Nothing Less” Red Hymnal #596

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain

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

“Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

Red Hymnal #547

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

BAG FLUFFING

FOR CORNUCOPIA FOOD PANTRY

Fourth Monday at 1:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church – Youth Center!

Cornucopia



Food Pantry



ROOFTOP REFLECTIONS

Join Pastor Mike as we discuss: “Seasons of Faith”

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

Embassy Suites Rooftop – Rockford, IL



WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

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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.

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!

Thank you, Sue Drilling, Margaret Hallin, Karen Kermgard, Kathy Rasch, Mary Franzen

A photograph of a lit Advent wreath. It consists of a red circular base filled with light-colored sand or beads. Seven white candles are placed in the base, with three of them lit, casting a warm glow. A wooden clothespin is used to hold one of the candles upright. In the foreground, there is a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing right. The background is dark and out of focus, showing what appears to be a church interior with pews. The letter 'y' is visible on the left side of the image, partially obscured by the silhouette.

Zion Lutheran Church – 925 Fifth Avenue – Rockford, IL



A diagram of a thermometer. A red arrow points to the bottom of the scale, which is marked with a '0'.

150 Turkeys	\$3,750.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00
25 Turkeys	\$625.00

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: Harriet Basel, Linda Reinhardt, Jerry Stalcup, and Scott Swan.
- ◇ For healing: Eloise Anderson, Colette Buchert, Linda Callahan, Yolanda Churchill, Charlie Dahlberg, Norma Daugherty, Karen Eiseman, John Hoyt, Gary Johnson, Jim McDowell, Les Morgan, Betty Jo Rodey, Wayne Spitzer, Carrie Steder, Carl Stoutenberg, 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
Fellowship:	Bonnie Dahlberg
Music:	Timm Adams
Reader:	Jim Rasch
Usher:	Charlie Dahlberg

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Sunday	9:15am	Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship
	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
	4:00pm	Rooftop Reflections—Embassy Suites Rooftop
Thursday	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
	8:30am	RVC ESL Class—Marander Room
Sunday	9:15am	All Saints Day of Remembrance Worship
	10:15am	Fellowship-Pastor Elect Rachel's last Sunday
	11:00am	Burmese Worship Service—Chapel
	1:00pm	New Life Worship Service-Conrad Room

UPCOMING

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