

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

August 22, 2021



Welcome to worship today!

As we move beyond the time of the pandemic, we continue to encourage those who have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

As a reminder our worship services are available online: Zion Website:

<http://www.zionlewisstownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

**Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
**August 22, 2021 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel. (\*Stand)*

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**MINISTRY OF ZION**

# GATHERING SONG *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet*

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la  
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -  
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y\_u - na mi - sión.  
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -  
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -  
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the  
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la  
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm  
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be  
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

*Refrain / Estribillo*



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.  
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.  
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.  
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

## **\*CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

P All praise, honor, and trust is due to God,  
The source and ground of our being,  
The + pioneer of our salvation,  
The sustainer of all that is and will be.

C **Amen.**

P God is present in contrite hearts. Longing for forgiveness is a sign of the Spirit's work.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God, our God, your mercy and love are beyond our understanding.

C **Like a prairie thirsting for rain,  
We are open to you, O Lord.  
Nothing is hidden from you.  
Revealed by your Love, we acknowledge  
Our mistakes and our omissions,  
Pain we have caused and callings we have failed to heed.  
We confess all of this to you  
And we admit that it is already known to you,  
Along with those things we have forgotten.  
Renew us by your grace  
That we may live in harmony among ourselves  
And with your whole creation.**

P Beloved of God, it is the will of the Divine  
That all may know the nearness of love and abundant forgiveness.  
Like the rain and the snow, God's word of grace pours forth  
And does not return without accomplishing its task of healing and restoration.  
You, beloved, are forgiven all your sins.  
Go in the world, led by the Spirit, to be met by Christ in all you do.  
Amen.

## **\*GREETING**

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

C **And also with you.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. Holy God,  
C **your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
Amen.

## **WORD**

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

## **BLESSING OF THE LECTOR**

P Lord you sustain our hearts with your Word. Be present with those who will read to us the Scripture this day. Amen

## **FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

A reading from Joshua.

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22** (Spoken responsively)

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia!    Lord and Sav - ior:    o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia!    Lord, we sing    for    the good news    that you bring.

## **\*GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

*The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

**P** The holy gospel according to John.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

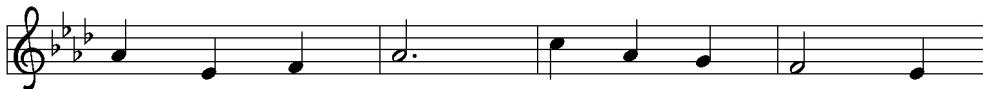
**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

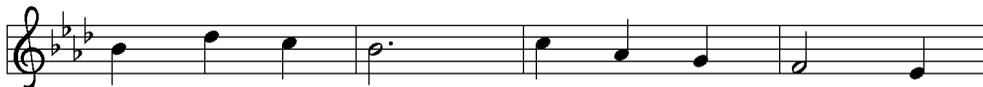
## HYMN OF THE DAY *Earth and All Stars!*



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!  
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!  
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!  
 4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!  
 5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!  
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!  
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!  
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!  
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!  
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



*Refrain*  
 God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

## **\*STATEMENT OF FAITH**

P With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**C We believe in God the Creator, giver of all that is seen and unseen in heaven and on Earth.**

**We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ the Redeemer, the uncreated Word, light of the world, who entered Creation, coming down from Heaven for us and our salvation. He was born human, incarnate with the Spirit, wholly created and wholly divine, he was crucified and died for all of creation to be free from sin. He lives and reigns with the Creator and the Sustainer and will judge the created.**

**We Believe in the Spirit, the Sustainer, the giver of Life, who mingles in creation nudging the church toward reconciliation. Through the Sustainer the creation is made holy and redeemed. We believe in this holy church, in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and look toward the life to come Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING *Now the Feast and Celebration*

*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



*Refrain*  
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



*Refrain*  
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



*Refrain*  
God; to make all things new.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P All that we have, O God, comes from you. Our time, our possessions, our skills, and our knowledge are gifts from your generous spirit. We offer to you what is your own that it may be used to your glory and for the good of your creation in this community and throughout the world.

C **Amen.**

### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The God of all creation be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P The presence of Christ fill you with peace and wholeness

C **May it be the same for our neighbors and friends.**

P The Spirit of holiness and restoration stir within you.

C **Make it so for us and for all creation.**

P You are worthy, our Lord and God, by your very nature to receive glory and honor and power. Out of your wisdom and love, you created all things- seen and unseen. The scope of your creation is beyond our full understanding and we are in awe of your holy imagination. Out of this love for all things, Jesus came into the created world and lived among us- that we might grow in deeper awareness of the Divine presence, will, and love. All creation is redeemed through his life, death, and resurrection. And so, with singing plains and calling mountains, with whispering cottonwoods and swaying pines, with howling wolves and chattering prairie dogs, with all the saints who have gone before, we join in the song of all creation and sing your praise:

## *Holy, Holy, Holy*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Indeed, you are holy, worthy of praise and our highest allegiance. We cannot flee from your presence nor would we wish to. You are present in the calmest of days and in the whipping of a windstorm. You are present in the swirl of river rapids and in the cracked earth of a dried pond. You are present in the in panting of a deer and in the screech of an osprey. You are present in the tang of the huckleberry and the mildness of Montana wheat. Your holy presence is most clear to us in Jesus Christ, the word made flesh and the pioneer of our faith.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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.

With this bread and this cup, we give thanks for the Word living in and among us,  
Full of wisdom and power.

We rejoice in our new life through his death and resurrection.

As we await Christ's coming again in glory,

We pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us as his body on earth,

To do the work of caring for others and for the whole creation.

May his presence in this meal grant us the willingness and the strength to

Imitate him more fully in all things.

To the One who hears all our prayers,

At this meal, where you promise to meet us,

We offer our deepest gratitude, our most sincere awe,

And our humblest requests for your guidance and help.

**C      Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P      Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.**

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P      Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.**

## COMMUNION SONG



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## 2ND COMMUNION SONG *Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

*Refrain*



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.

*Refrain*



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Creator of all, at this table  
You have fed our faith and given us a foretaste of the feast to come.  
Send us out, renewed, into your world  
That we may carry the good news of Christ's love  
And do the good work of his compassionate healing  
Wherever the Spirit leads us.

C Amen.

**SENDING**

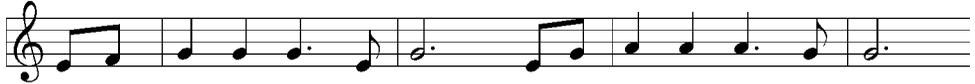
*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

P From the breadth of the plains,  
To the heights of the mountains,  
There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God,  
In whom you live, move, and have your being.  
God- Creator, + Redeemer, and Sustainer of all creation- bless you now and  
forever.

C Amen.

**\*SENDING SONG *Go in Peace and Serve the Lord***



Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is call - ing you to - day.



Go and tell gos - pel news ev - 'ry - where.



Go in peace and serve the Lord. God is call - ing you to - day



to bring truth and love to ev - 'ry na - tion.

## **\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace to care for God's creation.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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**Serving Us:**

**Pr. Stacey Heggem**

**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**

**Ushers: Dale & Gail Kurns**

**Lector: Starla Solberg**

**Communion Assistant: Monte & Starla Solberg**

**Welcome!** Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Jessie Stewart, Tia Gaughan (Pam Bowen's granddaughter), Sig Stokken, Wendy Pfau, Louise Langford, Roger Woltermann

**Homebound Members:** LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Don Pfau, Marv Mathison, Marvin Beck

**Social Concern of the Month: Lutheran World Relief,** Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end. If you would like to contribute to this effort mark LWR in the memo line on your check.

**Women's Fall Retreat Register by September 7 to get the **EARLY BIRD RATE** for the **WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT**, October 15-17,2021 at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Motivating speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service projects, Music, Great food (no cooking!). Bring a friend along for a fun, restful, spirit-filled weekend with women of faith on beautiful Flathead Lake. *Registration and more info at [www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat](http://www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat) Questions? Contact Nancy Solum at 406-240-0023 or [WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:WomensSpringRetreat@gmail.com) Sponsored by Women of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Five Valleys and Great Divide Cluster***

### **Week of 08/25-08/29**

Wed	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch at the Elk's
Thu	6:15pm	Stephen Ministry
Sun	9:30am	Worship

### **Upcoming Events**

08/31	4:00pm	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
	5:30pm	Caring Ministry
9/12	11:00am	Church Picnic/ Rally Day at the Fish Hatchery

Serving on Staff:

Secretary & BLAST Director: Falan Aanenson

Bookkeeper: Lynn Franz

Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker

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**Facebook:** Zion Lutheran Church Lewistown