

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

August 16, 2020



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Face masks or coverings are expected in the entry area before and after the service.

Once you are seated, masks may be removed.

However, if four or more cases of Covid-19 come to Fergus County we will require face masks be worn throughout the worship service.

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewisownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
August 16, 2020 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

(*Stand)

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence
in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit,
lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with
God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C **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.

God of all peoples,

C **your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD *Word of God, Come Down on Earth (vs 1)*

*Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING SONG: As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.*

*1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain*

*2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain*

*OFFERING PRAYER

P God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 Taste and see that the Lord is good.

O LAMB OF GOD

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

COMMUNION

Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

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

MINISTRY OF ZION

***BENEDICTION: PSALM 67 (responsively)**

¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg
Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS007700.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of
Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of
Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission from Onelicense.net A-725307 & CCLI
As the Grains of Wheat

Serving Us:

Pr. Lynne Ogren

8/12 Pianist: Meryl McKenna

8/16 Organist: Brian Priest

Ushers: Kent & Nina Yunker

Lector: Pat Fredrickson

Communion Assistants: Pat Fredrickson, Linda Robinson, Foss Wilson

Disciples: All the Baptized

Website: www.zionlewestownelca.com

Contact us: 538-5082 zionelca@midrivers.com

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe (Pr. Lynne's mother)

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau

Social Concern for August: Montana Synod Covid 19 Relief Fund

The Montana Synod has established a Covid-19 Disaster Grant Fund for congregations who are facing challenges to pay expenses due to reduced giving, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like to contribute, please make your check to Zion and note "Covid-19" on the memo line.

Week of 8/17 – 8/23/2020

Sun 9:30am Worship

Altar Guild is in need of volunteers for the months of October 2020, January 2021 and July 2021. The primary task is to prepare for Holy Communion each week. For more information about the duties, contact Avis, 538-9401, or the office.

Lutheran World Relief continues to serve vulnerable individuals and communities all over the world during and in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to contribute items for these kits, a list of items is available on the narthex table and also on the church website. Items can be delivered to church on Sundays or in the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Serving on Staff:
Secretary: Lana Papp
Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz
Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson
Rainbow Choir Director: Debby Shobe
Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker