

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana  
September 13, 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)**  
**September 13, 2020 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

(\*Stand)

**GATHERING**

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Welcome this day to the house of our God.

C **We gather in peace and in love.**

P Welcome this day to the worship of our Creator.

C **We worship in hope and with grace.**

P Welcome this day to our community of faith,

C **We meet together as sisters and brothers in Christ.**

**\*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.**

**\*CALL TO PRAYER *Hear Our Prayer***

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
peace to all people, hope for each soul.*

*God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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

P Let us pray.

O Lord God,

C **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **WORD**

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

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

### **\*GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

P      The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C      Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have

patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

### **Psalm 103:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

## **\*CREED**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,
- C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**
- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C **Amen.**

### MEAL

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

### INSERTED MUSIC *Soli Deo Gloria\** (vs 1 & 4)

*1 O God of blessings, all praise to you!  
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.  
You are the freedom of those oppressed;  
you are the comfort of all distressed.  
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:  
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*4 All praise for Jesus, best gift divine  
through word and witness, in bread and wine;  
incarnate love song of boundless grace,  
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,  
your steadfast kindness with human face:  
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

\*Soli Deo Gloria means “To God alone be the glory!”

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

*Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.*

## **COMMUNION SONG**

*Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.  
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.*

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### MINISTRY OF ZION

#### \*BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
C Amen.

#### \*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

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Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel, [www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com](http://www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com)

#### **Serving Us:**

**Pr. Lynne Ogren**

**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**

**Ushers: Bob & Cindy Giese**

**Lector:**

**Communion Assistant: Laurie Bentley, Jake & Kenadee Simac**

**Disciples: All the Baptized**

**Website: [www.zionlewistownelca.com](http://www.zionlewistownelca.com)**

**Contact us: 538-5082 [zionelca@midrivers.com](mailto:zionelca@midrivers.com)**

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

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe, Vonnie Ortgies

**Homebound Members:** LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau, Russ Hodge, Marv Mathison

**Social Concern for September: Lutheran World Relief** is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. The organization was founded in 1945 to collect and send aid to people living in post-World War II Europe. Today, LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being, and responds to emergencies with a long-term view. Zion's members have been supporting LWR by collecting items for school kits, health kits, baby kits and our quilters have been making quilts. If you would like to donate items, an up-dated list of what is needed is on the narthex table. If you would like to donate money, please make your check out to Zion and note "LWR" on the memo line.

**Week of 9/14 – 9/20/2020**

Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sun	9:30am	Worship
	10:30am	Congregational Meeting to review Personnel Policy

**Lutheran Disaster Response: Hurricane Laura.** Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with LSS Disaster Response (Upbring) and Texas & Louisiana Synods to help provide relief for devastated communities. 100% of "Hurricane" gifts will be used for this effort. If you would like to help, make your check to Zion and note "Hurricane" on the memo line.

**Watch for upcoming details on ZLCW's mini Bazaar which will feature wreaths and lefse!**

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