

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

September 20, 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.zionlewistownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
September 20, 2020 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

(*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.

Almighty and eternal God,

C **you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and

merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last

and then going to the first.’⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

RECOGNITION OF HOLY BAPTISM

Bradley Russell Carlson, born May 16, 2020, child of Kurt and Anjeanette Carlson, was baptized at the Lutheran Church of Sunburst. His sponsors at Zion are Pat & Polly Weichel and his other sponsor was his Aunt, Angela Carlson.

PRESENTATION

P God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Curt and Anjeanette, you brought Bradley Russell to the waters of baptism with your family at Lutheran Church of Sunburst and now we honor his baptism with your faith community here at Zion.

When you brought Bradley to receive the gift of baptism, you promised to raise him in the Christian faith saying that you would:

live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Bradley in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

P People of God, do you promise to support Bradley and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C **We do.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WELCOME

- P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

SONG *Welcome, Child Of God*

Raindrops, oceans, lakes, and rivers

Welcome, child of God!

Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters

Welcome, Child of God!

When the world feels wide around you

When the dark of night surrounds you

We are here to tend and guide you

Welcome, Child of God!

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: ourselves, 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

Serving Us:

Pr. Lynne Ogren

Pianist: Meryl McKenna

Usher: Bob Bjelland

Lector: Karen Combs

Communion Assistants: Lynn & Hanna Franz

Disciples: All the Baptized

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe, Vonnie Ortgies, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Scott Smyth (son-in-law of d'Autremont's)

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.

Today

Congregational Meeting following worship to review Personnel Policy.

Week of 9/21 – 9/27/2020

Wed	3:30pm	Confirmation
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sun	9:30am	Worship

ZLCW is planning a mini bazaar in December which will feature wreaths, lefse and a quilt raffle.

Christ in Our Home for October, November, December is available on the narthex table.

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