

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana  
November 15, 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.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required 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)**  
**November 15, 2020 24th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.*

**GATHERING**

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

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C** **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.**

**P** Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

**C** **Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**

**P** At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**C** **By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

**P** We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

**C** **Show us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

**P** To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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.  
Righteous God,

C **our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *Day By Day*

Stan Olson

### **\*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.**

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

**P** Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of  
God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

(Response to petitions)

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **your kingdom come.**

P Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.  
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** *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

- 1 *Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring  
to place upon your table.  
We do not worship as we ought  
but only as we're able.*
- 2 *The vines were planted, seeds were sown.  
They grew in your good pleasure.  
What once was common, daily food  
becomes a holy treasure.*
- 3 *Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares  
we lift in prayer before you.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us,  
as humbly we adore you.*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.  
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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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 There is a place for you at the banquet.  
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

## **COMMUNION SONG**

*O 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.*

## **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** Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING

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

## MINISTRY OF ZION

**\*BLESSING *Remember and Rejoice (ST. THOMAS)(vs 1 & 4)***

*1 Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.*

*4 God, bless us by your grace;  
remind us of your care.  
Renewing Spirit, fill us now,  
inspire our work, our prayer.*

## **\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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**Serving Us:**  
**Pr. Lynne Ogren**  
**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**  
**Ushers: 9:30 & 11am – Stan & Audrey Olson**  
**Lector: 9:30 & 11am – Audrey Olson**  
**Communion Assistants:**  
**9:30am – Bob & Cindy Giese, Cheyenne Aanenson**  
**11am – Lana Papp, Foss Wilson**  
**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, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Wendy Pfau, Dianne Kaldor (Meryl McKenna's sister), Sig Stokken, Bill Steele

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

**Social Concern for November: Love, INC. Gap Ministry** – “When people come to Love, INC, more often than not, they are caught up in crisis. Gap Ministries help to “quiet the crisis” so that the real work of teaching, relationship building and transformation can begin.” Zion has agreed to host a Personal Care Closet which will help to fill one of the “gaps”. Brown paper bags with a list of items needed are on the narthex table for your convenience or you may take one of the bright green cards. If you would like to help supply some of these items, please bring them to the church by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Questions call the office, 538-5082.

## Week of 11/16 – 11/22/2020

Mon	4:00pm	Lefse making
	7:00pm	Council meeting
Tue	10:00am	Staff meeting
	4:00pm	Lefse making
Wed	12:00pm	Men over lunch at the Elks
	3:30pm	BLAST
	3:45 pm	Confirmation
	4:00pm	Lefse making
Thu	9:00am	Quilting
Sat	9:00am	Gathering of greens Meet in church parking lot
Sun	9:30am	Worship
	11:00am	Worship

**ZLCW Mini Bazaar December 5.** Pre-orders for lefse and wreaths are being taken; sign-up sheets are on the narthex table. Sign-up sheets for gathering greens and making wreaths are also on the narthex table. Cindy Giese has made and donated a quilt, raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00 and will be sold in the narthex through the month of November or call the office. Your help is needed, please volunteer today!

**Trust Scholarship Applications** are available on the narthex table. Applications must be returned to Zion by December 9<sup>th</sup>. Questions call the office 538-5082.

**St. James is coordinating a Thanksgiving Day Dinner (November 26th, Thursday) for our community.** The meals will be delivered from approximately 2:00 - 4:00 pm. There won't be any 'in person' dining due to COVID-19. Current participating churches are St. James' Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian, United Methodist, and Zion Lutheran Churches. If you would like to help in any way: taking reservations, cooking, packing, or delivery, OR would like to receive a Thanksgiving Day dinner or dinners, please contact the Reverend Jean Collins at [jgcollins08@gmail.com](mailto:jgcollins08@gmail.com), 406-396-0920, or 538-5151 or Dean Martin at 406-366-2790.

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