

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 6, 2026



Welcome to worship today!

As a reminder 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

September 6, 2026 15th Sunday after Pentecost

## GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us  
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we  
may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his  
sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church  
of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of  
all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Gather Us In*

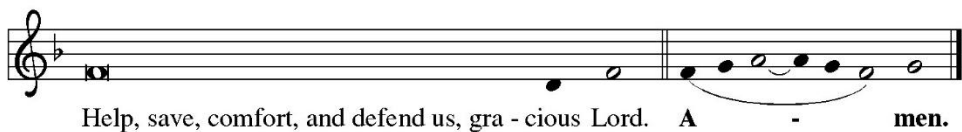
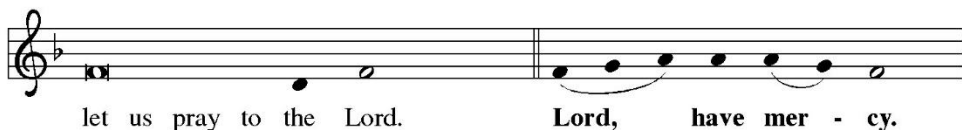
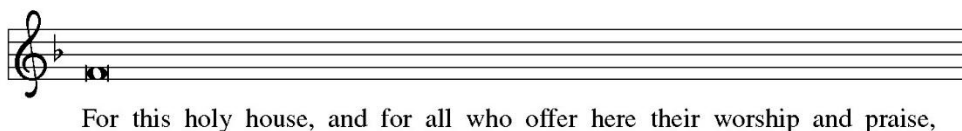
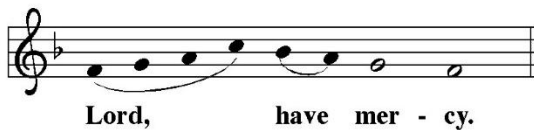
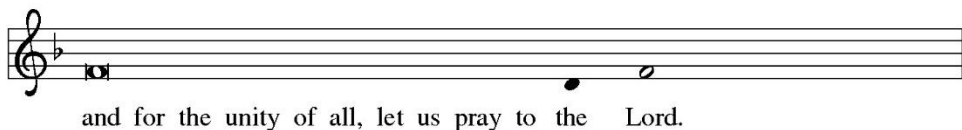
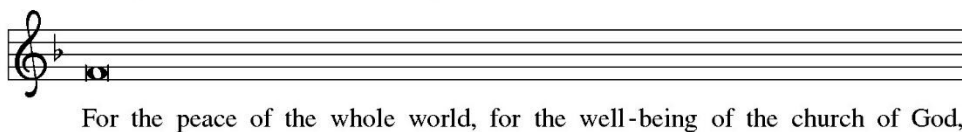
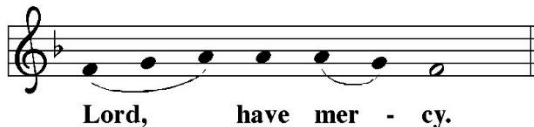
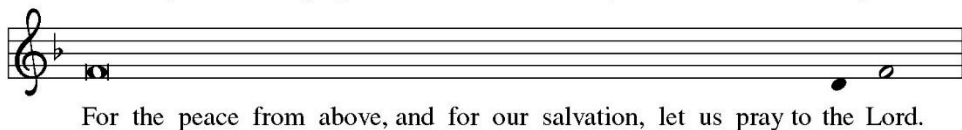
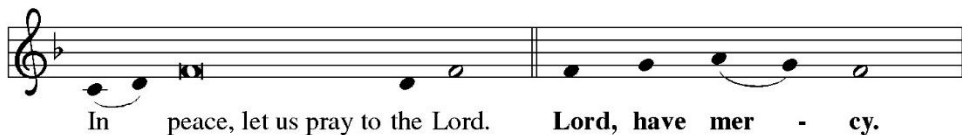
(ELW 532)

### 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.**

## KYRIE



## CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p.148)

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. O God,  
**C** in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD

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

## FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

<sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>2:1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4a</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God<sup>1</sup> in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> all you angels; sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD,<sup>1</sup> sun and moon; sing praise, all you<sup>1</sup> shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD, who commanded, and they<sup>1</sup> were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not<sup>1</sup> pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD<sup>1</sup> from the earth, you sea monsters<sup>1</sup> and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail,<sup>1</sup> snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains<sup>1</sup> and all hills, fruit trees<sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts<sup>1</sup> and all cattle, creeping things and<sup>1</sup> flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth<sup>1</sup> and all peoples, princes and all rulers<sup>1</sup> of the world;

<sup>12</sup> **young<sup>1</sup> men and maidens, old and<sup>1</sup> young together.**

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name<sup>1</sup> of the LORD,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over<sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all<sup>1</sup> faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

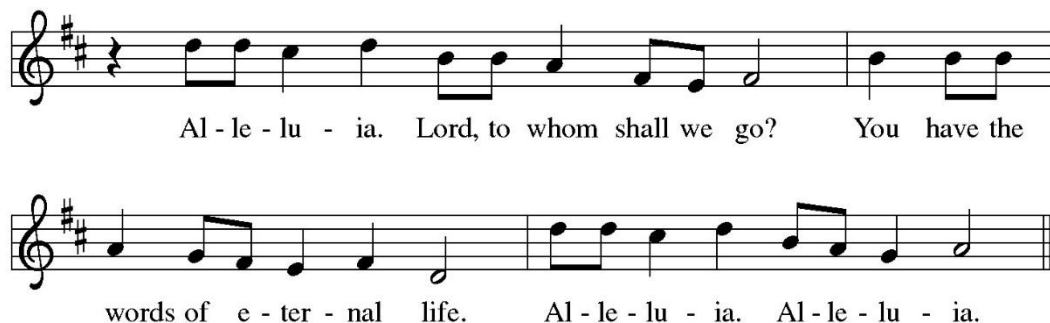
A reading from Acts.

<sup>22a</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup> For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



## GOSPEL: John 1:1-5

**P** The holy gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

(ELW 656)

## **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 THE PEOPLE**

P We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great."

(Response to prayers)

P Hear us, O God

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## THE MEAL

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

## OFFERING

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the

brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the

seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

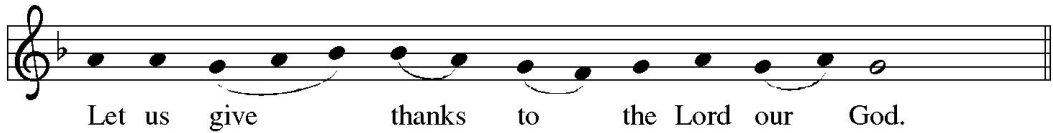
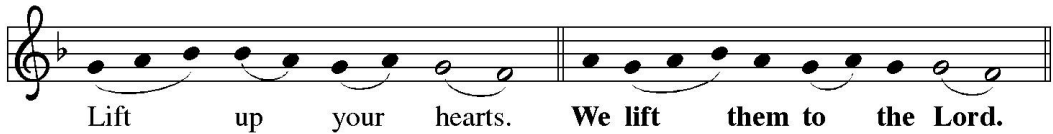
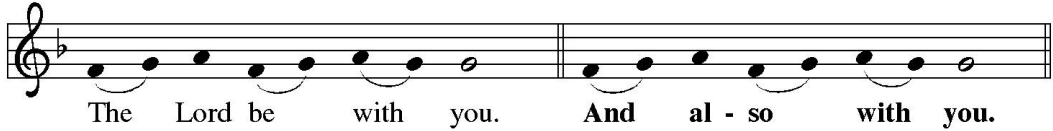
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

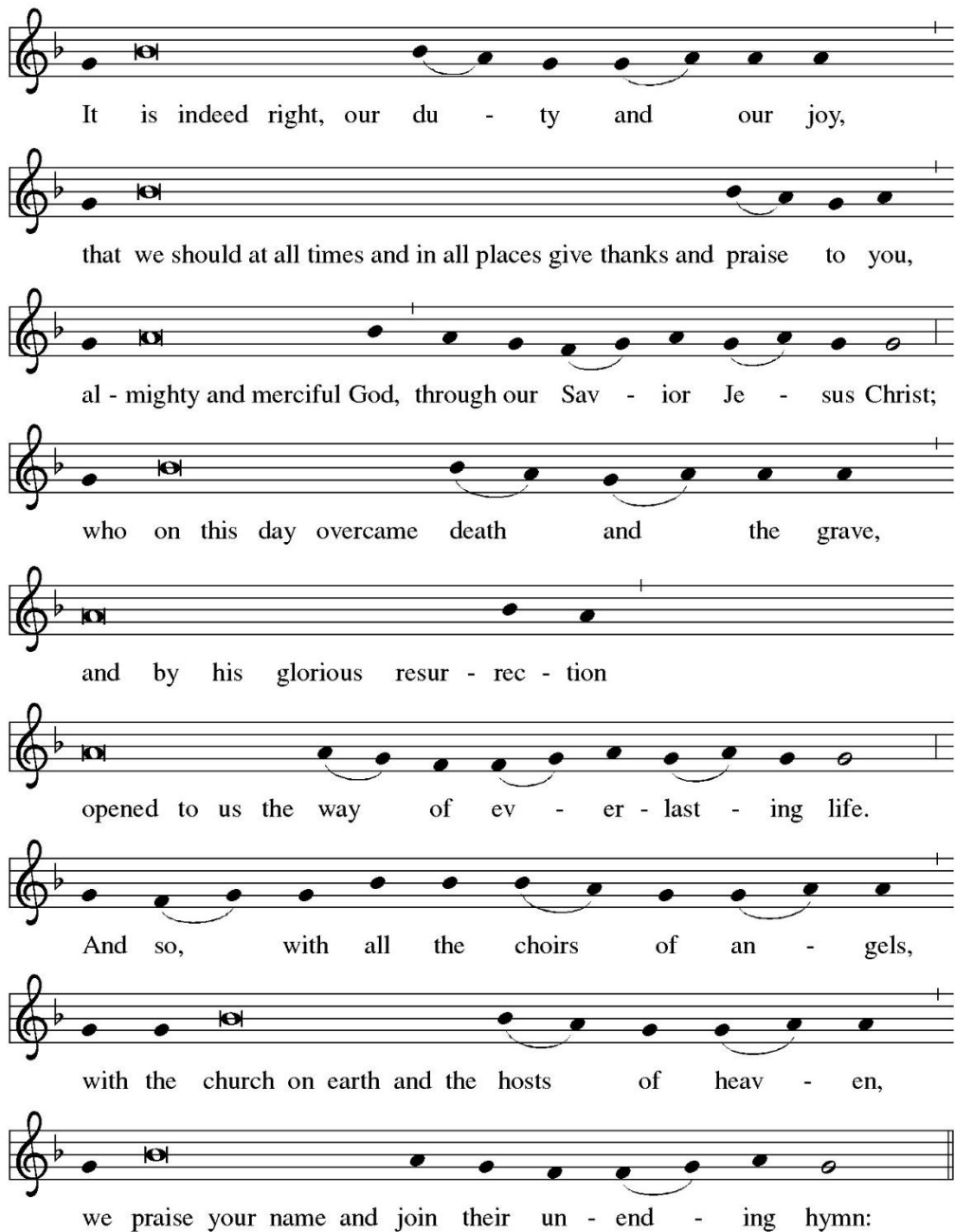
**P** Let us pray.

**C** Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion  
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

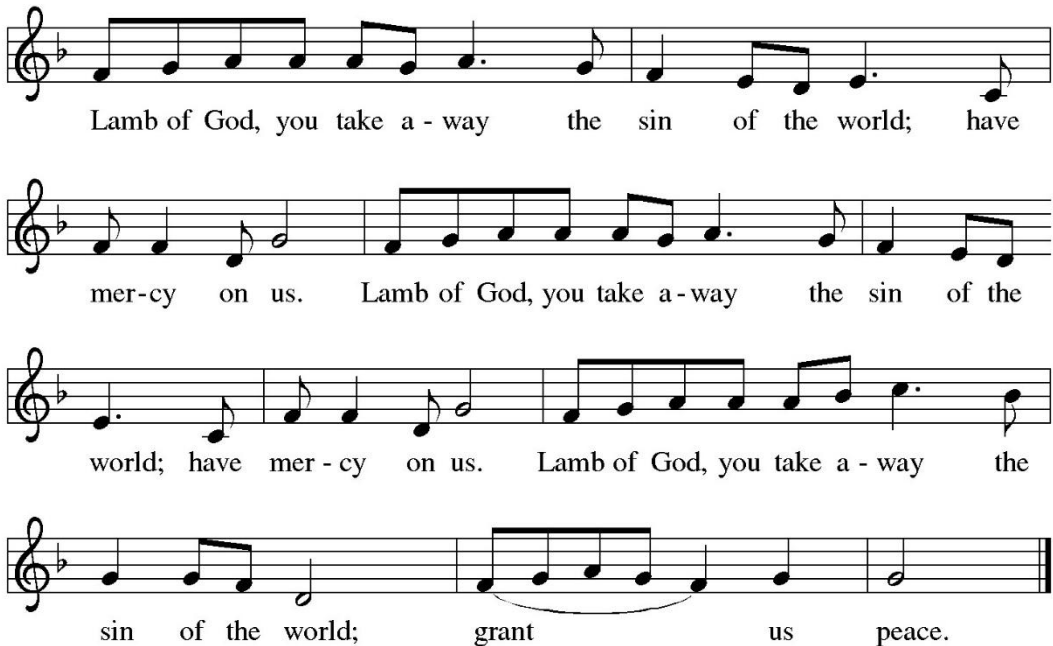
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **SONG DURING COMMUNION *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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. Amen.

### **SENDING**

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

### **BLESSING**

**P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **SENDING SONG *We All Are One in Mission***

**(ELW 576)**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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### **Serving Us:**

**Pastor: Stacey Heggem**

**Pianist: Rhonda Jeide**

**Lector: Laurie Bentley**

**Communion Assistants: Lana Papp, Denise Goodwyn & Nina Yunker**

**Ushers: Dale & Gale Kurns & Roger Waltermann**

**Greeters: Denise Goodwyn**

**PowerPoint: George Maruska**

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Scott, Ed, Norma D., Tia (Pam Bowen's granddaughter), Ken, Scott, Mike, Dianne, Krista, Tracy, Gordon, Pam, Margie, Maureen, Mark, Wayne, Suzie, Avis & Stephanie

**Please call** the office if you would like to join Prayer Partners.

**Social Concern for September: Campus Ministry**

In August we celebrate the important ministry to and with the students on the Montana State University and University of Montana campuses. Both ministries offer opportunities for young adults to worship, serve the community, and explore their faith in deeper ways. Zion includes campus ministry in our annual giving since they rely on outside gifts to sustain their ministry programs and the pastors at each campus. The offerings collected in August will be added to our annual commitment and will be divided between these two campus ministries. We give thanks for the ways campus ministry extends our care for these young women and men in their college years.

**If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark Campus Ministry in the memo line of your check.**

**Week of 9/7 – 9/13**

|      |         |                                         |
|------|---------|-----------------------------------------|
| 9/9  | 12:00pm | Men Over Lunch                          |
|      | 3:30pm  | B.L.A.S.T, Rainbow Choir & Confirmation |
|      | 4:30pm  | Wee Singers                             |
|      | 6:00pm  | Youth Bible Study                       |
| 9/10 | 9:00am  | Quilting                                |
|      | 12:00pm | Zoom Bible Study                        |
| 9/13 | 9:30am  | Worship                                 |

**Week of 8/24 – 8/30**

|      |         |                |
|------|---------|----------------|
| 9/15 | 9:30am  | Rachel Circle  |
| 8/26 | 12:00pm | Men Over Lunch |
| 8/27 | 9:00am  | Quilting       |
| 8/30 | 9:30am  | Worship        |

**Items needed for LRW School Kits and Personal Care Kits**

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper 8 x 10 ½ size
- 30 cm rulers or centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Blunt scissors
- Pencil sharpeners
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel)
- Light weight bath towel (between 20" x 40" & 52" x 27") dark color
- Adult size toothbrush in its original packaging