



10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

It Is Well with My Soul, arr. Ron Loree

One License #104720

Foundation, arr. Bonnie Barrett

One License #1027113

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.

**Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

HYMN

***How Firm a Foundation* RED ELW #796
(Vs. 1 & 2)**

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

***Praise to You, O God of Mercy* RED ELW #208**

- 1 Praise to you, O God of mercy:
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!**

- 2** From of old you loved and sought us:
thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us:
thanks be to you forever!

Bridge

**Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

- 3** Praise to you, O God of mercy:
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

Text: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God,

**judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal
for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed,
and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of
our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:]⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens.⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens.⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

- 1 If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.**
- 2 What gain is there in anxious weeping,
in helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior's keeping,
in sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross
will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.**

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
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APOSTLES' CREED

- 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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, arr. Ludwig Lenel

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OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart RED ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

One License #93324

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,

**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us by the word that is proclaimed in word and deed
that our work and words may be for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

✙ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry RED ELW #876
(Vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.
One License #97168

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, arr. James Mansfield
One License #1043117



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Weekly Announcements

Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier, and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of August is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

Feed My Starving Children—Members and Friends of Zion are invited to a food packing event at Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen MN on **Thursday, August 21 from 5-6:30pm**. Carpool will leave the Zion parking lot at 4pm. Sign up on the clip board outside Pastor Gretchen's office. Contact Jane Scharpe or Pastor Gretchen for more information.

Baking communion bread

Who bakes the communion bread at Zion? Would you like to be one of them? It's really easy and Jane Scharpe is willing to have a baking class for anyone interested.

Please contact Jane (507-995-2736) and become a communion bread baker!

Where have you worshiped this summer? The Board of Worship & Music is inviting you to share a bulletin from where you worship when you're at the cabin, on a trip or just visiting friends.

Pin it up on the map on the bulletin board by the front door. Put your name on it, if you want it back at the end of summer.

Campfire Church—All are invited to Campfire Church on **Monday, August 18 at 7:00pm** with Holy Communion. Linger around the fire and enjoy hot dogs and smores after worship. Bring your lawn chair and a roasting stick.

Blessing of the Backpacks—bring your backpack to church on **Sunday, August 24** for Blessing of the Backpacks! Receive a backpack tag and blessing for the coming school year!

Sunday, August 31—Bring your lawn chair and come on our to the Zion Cemetery for an outdoor worship service. We will meet on Sunday, August 31 at 9am.

Breakfast in a bag options will be available for coffee chat after church. Come see part of our history.

Directions to Zion's Cemetery: from Zion head west on County Road 12 for 3 miles. Turn right at the intersection of County Road 13 and travel 3.5 miles. Turn right onto 200th Street. Cemetery is on the right hand side.

Confirmation Orientation—Parents of students entering grades 6, 7, 8 & 9, there will be a confirmation orientation meeting on **Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30pm**. We are in the process of shifting the program so that students affirm their faith in the spring of 8th grade, instead of 9th grade.

Boards and Committees of Zion have agreed to move their meeting to the first Thursday of the month, so that the confirmation students can meet on Wednesdays.

September 14 is the beginning of Sunday School and God's Work, Our Hands day of service. We are still collecting service projects, so far we have 2—converting sheets into bandages and filling backpacks.

Worship Assistants

August 17

Ushers: Stephanie Krueger, Mausten Krueger
Murdock Krueger, Jan Wark
Greeter: Scott Bergs
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson
Reader: Cindy Quast
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

August 24

Ushers: Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Greeter: Sandy Bergs
Acolyte: Harper Drexler
Reader: Janet Rowe
AV Team: Elton Hazelwood &
Tim Michaelis

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Unscheduled—Interruptible Hours for the week of August 17

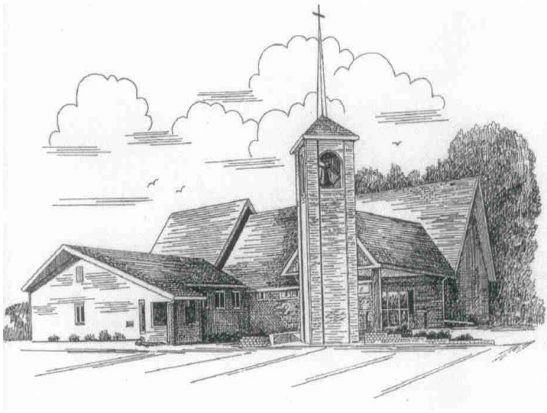
Wednesday, August 20—2p-6p

Thursday, August 21—11a-4p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Hours
Monday—Thursday
2:30p-5p

Zion Lutheran Church
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Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, August 17	9:00a	Worship
Monday, August 18	7:00p	Campfire Church w/Holy Communion
Wednesday, August 20	7:00p	Harvest Supper Meeting
Thursday, August 21	10:00a 5-6:30p	Adult Bible Study Feed My Starving Children
Sunday, August 24	9:00a	Worship Blessing of the Backpack

