



11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

If Thou But Suffer God, arr. Paul Manz

One License #97853

Priere a Notre-Dame from Suite Gothique, Arr. L. Boellmann

One License #119123

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

Morning Has Broken RED ELW #556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

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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,

mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

The call of the prophet Jeremiah does not depend on Jeremiah's abilities or age. God will give him the words to speak. Even before Jeremiah was born, God appointed him a prophet to the nations, to minister in the difficult years before the Babylonian exile.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷
But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you
have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS/Blessing of the Backpacks

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand RED ELW #441
(Vs. 1 & 4)

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand
amid the heav'nly throng;
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land
the new celestial song,
the new celestial song.
- 4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;
your love has made us free
to stand among the saints and sing
the glory that we see,
the glory that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; 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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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

Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above, arr. Paul Manz

One License #10-3527

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing RED ELW #886

(Vs. 1, 3 & 6)

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
 my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King,
 the triumphs of his grace!

**3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

**6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

***Toccata in F Major*, arr. Dietrich Butehude**

One License #110801



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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.

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.

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 24

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

August 31

Ushers: Brad & Brenda Danielson
Gordon & Barb Bergs
Greeter: Mary Albrecht
Acolyte: Ashley Schauer
Reader: Jane Scharpe
AV Team: Elton Hazelwood &
Tim Michaelis

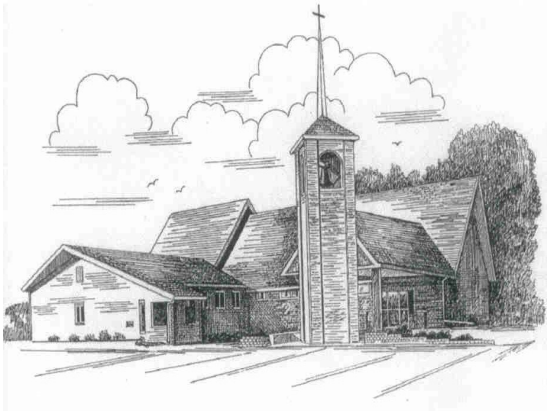
Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Unscheduled—Interruptible Hours for the week of August 24
Wednesday, August 27—2p-5p
Or by appointment

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

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Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com
Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, August 24	9:00a	Worship Blessing of the Backpacks
Monday, August 25		Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, August 28	9:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, August 31	9:00a	Contemporary Worship at Zion Cemetery

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

