



13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ.

Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour

Robert W. Thygerson, Robert Lowry

One License #993162 & 230242

He Is Exalted

Twila Paris

CCLI #17827

More Precious Than Silver

Arr. Lynn De Sazo

CCLI #11335

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

HYMN

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* RED ELW #807
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, 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.

KYRIE

Kyrie Eleison RED ELW page #184

Refrain

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
(Refrain)**

**That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
(Refrain)**

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
(Refrain)**

**For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
(Refrain)**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Let Us Break Bread Together RED ELW #471

**Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain***

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Direct us, O Lord God,
in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued,
and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us
to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 18:1-11

God teaches Jeremiah a lesson at a potter's shop. Just as a potter may destroy an unacceptable vessel, starting over to refashion it into one of value, so God molds and fashions the nations, including Israel.

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³ So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴ The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ but if that nation,

concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.⁹ And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,¹⁰ but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.¹¹ Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

² **You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³ You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵ You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³ For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ **I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵ My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷ How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my

heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia RED ELW page 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Bread Which You Have Broken RED ELW #494
(Vs. 1 & 4)

**1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.**

**4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.**

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

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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, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

THE PEACE

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

My Jesus, I Love Thee

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OFFERING HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful RED ELW #182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY HOLY HOLY

RED ELW page 207

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in 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 sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION

(Zion practices an open table. God welcomes everyone to come forward. Young children may receive bread and a blessing. If you prefer not to receive, fold your hands and receive a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please ask your servers. Come to the Lord's table and share in the feast!)

LAMB OF GOD

RED ELW page 146

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal RED ELW #805
(Vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

**3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!**

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesus, Thou Art Holy
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Weekly Announcements



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

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 September is designated to Sibley County Foodshare.

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.

Who wants to sit “up high” in the balcony...sipping coffee...looking busy...and serving as part of the AV Team?

You Do! Consider working with us—you will enjoy it!

See Joe, Tim, Jan, Elton or Pastor Gretchen for more information.

Sunday School begins next Sunday, September 14 after worship.

God's Work Our Hands projects will be available after church. Please stay and help with Global Health Ministry's Bandage Rolling or Lutheran World Relief's Backpack packing.

Clattering Coins for Christ will be on Sunday, September 21. Coins will be given to Sibley County FoodShare.

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of September 7

Tuesday, September 9—10a-9p

Wednesday, September 10—2:30p-9p

Thursday, September 11—10a-4p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

September 7

Ushers: Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Greeter: Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
Reader: Starla Schilling
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe &
Starla Schilling
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe

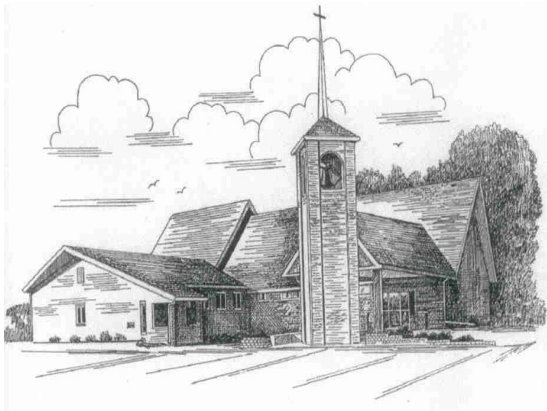
September 14

Ushers: Rich Nagel, Larry Gieseke
Jane Scharpe, Dave Breyer
Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Laurie Stern
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &
Elton Hazelwood
Altar Guild: Larry & Pam Schiroo
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at
www.youtube.com
Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN
www.zionarlington.org

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Church: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com
Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, September 7	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion Grandparents Day
Tuesday, September 9	10:00a 6:30p	Tuesday Bible Study Anniversary Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 10	7:00p	Church Council
Thursday, September 11	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, September 14	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion God's Work, Our Hands Sunday School

