



Whoever is faithful
in a very little
is faithful also in much ...

Luke 16:10, NRSV

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price.

“Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.”

Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

***God Himself Is Present*, arr. Michael Burkhardt**

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***Air on the G String*, arr. JS Bach**

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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

***Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* RED ELW #533
(Vs. 1 & 2)**

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!**
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, 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.

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)**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

***Praise and Thanksgiving* RED ELW #689
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle
(I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.” ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.’ ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the

other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

Blessing of LWR Backpacks, GHM Bandage Rolls & Cards

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blest Are They RED ELW #728
(Vs. 1 & 3)

Blest are they, the poor in spirit
Theirs is the kingdom of God
Blest are they, full of sorrow
They shall be consoled

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you
Rejoice and be glad
Yours is the Kingdom of God

Blest are they who show mercy
Mercy shall be theirs
Blest are they, the pure of heart
They shall see God

Rejoice and be glad
Blessed are you; holy are you
Rejoice and be glad
Yours is the Kingdom of God

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

OFFERING

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

OFFERING

What God Ordains Is Always Good, arr. Albert Beck

One License #838CW21Acc

OFFERING HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own RED ELW #686
(Vs. 1)

- 1** We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.
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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.

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 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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing RED ELW #545
(Vs. 1)

1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

The Happy Trumpeter, arr. Gordon Young
One License #1011943

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.

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.

Clattering Coins for Christ will be held today. Coins will be given to Sibley County FoodShare.

Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 5. Please send in a picture of your pet to Stacy in the office and it will be included on the Announcement Screens prior to worship.

ZCW Thankoffering Committee will be meeting after church today, to begin discussion on this year's Thankoffering program.



Acknowledgements:

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Church ArtPro

Account #73982207—6/30/2026

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of September 21

Tuesday, September 23—11a-4p

Wednesday, September 24—2:30p-9p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

Worship Assistants

September 21

Ushers: Mary Sylwester, Cindy Quast
Starla Schilling, Larry Klunder
Greeter: Mary Lietz
Acolyte: Alice Foss
Reader: Mary Sylwester
AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

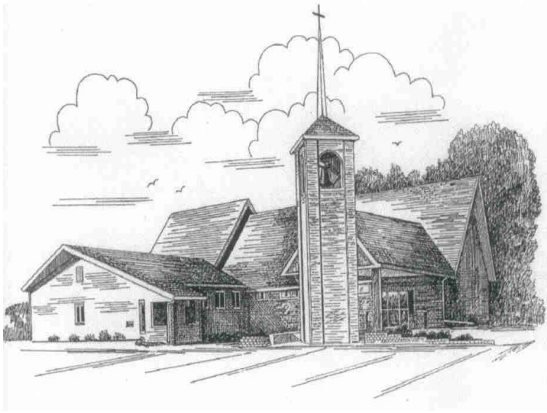
September 28

Ushers: Ryan & Kate Bergs
Ross Bergs, Scott Bergs
Greeter: Wendy Kube
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Brad Danielson
AV Team: Joe Prasad &
Elton Hazelwood

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



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, September 21	9:00a	Worship
	10:00a	Clattering Coins for Christ
	10:00a	Sunday School
		Thankoffering Committee Meeting
Monday, September 22		Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, September 24	6:30-8p	9th Grade Confirmation
Thursday, September 25	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, September 28	9:00a	Contemporary Worship
	10:00a	Sunday School

