



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

***Fairest Lord Jesus*—arr. J. Mansfield**

One License #1047309

***Change My Heart O God*—arr. Eddie Espinosa**

One License #49853

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK—Thankoffering

THANKSGIVING OF BAPTISM

We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer +, and sustainer.

Amen.

Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold.

We give you thanks, O God,
For at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good.

We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal.
You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael.
You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus, leading Miriam to shout out in song.
You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own.
You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding.
You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts.

Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

**All Creatures, Worship God Most High! RED ELW #835
(Vs. 1, 2 & 6)**

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite

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GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest RED ELW page 139

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy.
Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live
through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Ruth 1:7-16

Readings Naomi and Ruth (soul). Ruth is a story of deep faithfulness, empathy, and compassion amid adversity. The story's soul demonstrates the power of love to triumph over hopelessness and to bridge great differences. For women like Ruth and Naomi, whose empathy heals generational wounds, we give thanks.

⁷So Naomi set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?...No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 139:1-14

God's compassionate creativity (spark)

The spark of the divine dwells within each of us. For the cosmic creativity of God, whose presence accompanies and inspires all, we give thanks.

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²**You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, 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 it.**

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,"

[^a]¹² **even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

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: Matthew 9:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The women who bled for twelve years (strength).

Through a bold woman, Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power by accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life. For unnamed women who fight to be seen and heard, we give thanks.

¹⁸ While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰ Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take

heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³ When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴ he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵ But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Great Is Thy Faithfulness RED ELW #733
(Vs. 1 & 3)

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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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 THE PEOPLE

In solidarity with your people from every nation and knit together with all of creation, we boldly pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.

Inspire your church, like Ruth and Naomi, to extend arms of compassion and empathy in times of challenge. Equip communities to be welcoming, to show mercy, and to lean into relationships so that all people may know your care.

God our soul, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide leaders to reflect the spark of your divine wisdom. Open eyes to see the goodness of your created world and encourage the tender care of those cast aside. Reveal yourself in unexpected places and in the leadership of those called to help. God our Spark, **Hear our prayer.**

Bring healing, like the woman who bled for twelve years, to all who are suffering. Give strength to the weary, uplift the lowly, and amplify the voices of those quieted. Breathe new life into forgotten places, end wars, rejuvenate lands, and uplift spirits. God our Strength, **Hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your love for us, we offer to you these prayers and whatever else weighs heavy upon us, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

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

**THANKOFFERING
OFFERING**

Give Thanks—arr. Henry Smith

One License #75

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Abundance,

You create goodness in everything we offer. Use these gifts to bless the world.

Strengthen ministries, empower leaders, and inspire generosity so that all may know your love. Thank you for revealing this love to us once again table that we might embody your compassionate care in all we do, to the glory of your holy name. 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

(written by Carter Horman '28)

Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose.

Bless the men and women, children and youth of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward.

May your love be our guide, and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty RED ELW #858
(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
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SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Prelude on a Theme by Haydn—arr. J. Carrier

One License #1047145

Strength, Soul, and Spark: Celebrating the Gifts of Women Thankoffering Service 2025
Created by students and staff of the Office of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry at
Wartburg College for Women of the ELCA



Acknowledgements:

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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 November is designated to Feed My Starving Children

Nativity Set Stroll

The Board of Stewardship will be setting up the nativity sets on Thursday, December 4 starting at 3:00.

You can set up your nativity set(s) or we can do it for you. Please bring them to the church basement on Wednesday or by 3:00 on Thursday.

You can pick up your nativity set(s) after 1:00 on Sunday, December 7th.

Nativity Set Stroll will be held in the Zion church basement during Arli-Dazzle on Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 to 5:00 and also on Sunday, December 7th from 10:00 to 1:00. There will be a light lunch on Saturday and coffee and treats Sunday. A free will donation is requested - proceeds going to the Zion Parking Lot Fund.

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Choir will be practicing on Wednesday, November 12 and Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00p at the United Methodist Church. All are welcome!

ZCW Thankoffering—On November 16th, the church worship service will include Thankoffering as one of the components of worship. Thankoffering envelopes were placed in all mailboxes after services on November 2nd. This envelope with your donation may be placed in the specially marked basket in the narthex, may be mailed to the church office or may be dropped off at the church office and slid under the secretary door on or before December 1, 2025.

Christmas Poinsettia orders are due into the church office by Sunday, November 23.

Adopt-A-Family and Minnesota Valley Action Council—This is the second year we have decided to support the Adopt-A-Family project. If you would like to participate, there will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for you to write your name. If you would like to help with this program, we will be asking you to purchase a gift costing around \$25 for someone that you will select later. Sign up will be through Sunday, November 23. When I have the list of the names, I will contact MVAC and they will select enough families with the same number of names as we have signed up. Starting on Sunday, November 30, you can draw a name off of the list provided by MVAC. You will be given the age and a couple of ideas what that person would like as a present. This is all done anonymously. The wrapped presents with the first name of the person should be brought to church by Wednesday, December 10. Thank you very much for participating in this program. It's a good way to spread our Christian love at Christmas, if you have any questions or unable to sign up today, you can call Mary Lietz at 612-756-1871.

SERVICE PROJECT for Synod Jr High Youth Gathering November 21-22

Zion youth will be heading to the Willmar Conference Center for this overnight event. Participating churches are invited to support teens who are experiencing homelessness by collect items for hygiene kits for the Fostering Youth Transitions resource center. Fostering Youth Transitions is a Willmar area service organization preparing youth for independence by provides guidance and support to youth up to age 23 who have been out of home placement (ie. foster care, group homes, juvenile justice placements or change of custody) and are preparing to find their own living situation. We will be collecting the following items to create hygiene kits for the resource center:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| · Full-sized Deodorant | · Full-sized Toothpaste |
| · Full-sized Body-Wash/ Soap | · Hair brush or Comb |
| · Tooth brush | · Razors/ shaving cream |
| · Lotion | |

Please bring your items to church by Sunday 11/ 16.

Thank you for your support!

Arli-Dazzle Parade—we are looking for parade walkers both young and old (Angels & Shepherds). Also for donations of parade candy. Parade candy can be placed in the basket in the Narthex.

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Worship Assistants

November 16

Ushers: Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Cindy Quast, Mary Sylwester
Greeter: Tim Michaelis
Acolyte: Harper Drexler
Reader: Nancy Mathwig
Organist: Brenda Danielson
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &
Joe Prasad
Paraments: Jan Wark &
Diane Ebersviller

November 23

Ushers: Stephanie Krueger, Mausten Krueger
Murdock Krueger, Rich Nagel
Greeter: Murdock Krueger
Acolyte: Ashley Schauer
Reader: Lorraine Mielke
Organist: Brenda Danielson
AV Team: Joe Prasad & Elton Hazelwood
Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe & Starla Schilling
Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben
Paraments: Jan Wark & Diane Ebersviller

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
pastor@zionarlington.org

Office Hours for the week of November 16

Tuesday, November 18—11a-3:30p

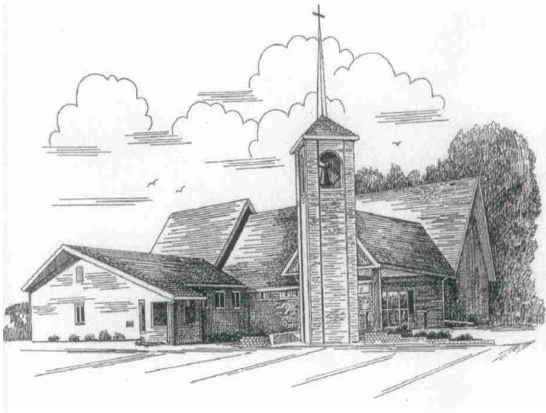
Wednesday, November 19—2p-6p

Or by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

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



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, November 16	9:00a	Worship
		ZCW Thankoffering
	10:00a	Sunday School
Wednesday, November 19	4-5:30p	6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Confirmation
	7:00p	Ecumenical Choir Rehearsal @ Methodist Church
		Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, November 20	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Friday, November 21 & Saturday, November 22		Jr. High Youth Gathering, Willmar
Sunday, November 23	9:00a	Contemporary Worship
	10:00a	Sunday School

