



6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Peace Like a River

Arr. Sondra K. Tucker

One License #10-582.3

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Arr. Robert Lau

One License #80777

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

Amen.

HYMN

Before You, Lord, We Bow RED ELW #893
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 Before you, Lord, we bow,
our God who reigns above
and rules the world below
with boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
in joy and praise,
our hearts we raise,
to you we sing!**
- 2 May ev'ry mountain height,
each vale and forest green,
shine forth in wisdom's light,
and its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
be tuned to praise
and join to raise
a grateful song.**

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, 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.

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

You are great, O God,
and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless
until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and
serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all
ages.**
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia* RED ELW page 205**

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: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

"Lessons from Jesus for our Souls"

Rev. Bill Nelsen

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounded RED ELW #620
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, 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, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Simple Gifts

Arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

One License #230261

OFFERING HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving RED ELW #689

(Vs. 1)

- 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.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God,
**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

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 208

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

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My Country Tis of Thee

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Beautiful Savior

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COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God Bless America

God bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home, sweet home.
God bless America, my home, sweet home.

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DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (Navy Hymn)

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Church ArtPro

Account #73982207—6/30/2026

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

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!

Thank you to Pastor Bill Nelsen for leading us in worship today.

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

Feed My Starving Children—Monday, July 27. Packing session from 5-6:15pm. Sign up on the clipboard near Pr. Gretchen's office.

CampHouse Ordinary Time—August 13-16. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

The Water's Edge Ministries (formerly GLLM) Quilt is finished and ready to be donated to the Quilt Auction on July 24-25 at Green Lake Bible Camp. This years 60" x 74" quilt is called "Farmers Prayer" and is a tribute to hard-working farm families that tend our land, including farm imagery and Bible verses.

Worship Assistants

July 5

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel
 Larry Gieseke, Larry Klunder
 Greeter: Mark & Lisa Strobel
 Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
 Reader: Cindy Quast
 AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
 Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe
 & Jackie Alsleben
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

July 12

Usher: Larry & Pam Schiroo
 Kevin Kamps, Adilyn Kamps
 Greeter: Jan Wark
 Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
 Reader: Wendy Pederson
 AV Team: Jan Giesen
 & Jeremiah Vazquez
 Altar Guild: Lana Woehler
 & Peg Kamps
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot	Confirmation Camp
6/28/2026	\$ 791.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 400.00	\$ 61.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 90.00

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060
 pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of July 5

Tuesday, July 7—12p-4p

Wednesday, July 8—2:30p-5p

Thursday, July 9—12pp-3p

by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, July 5	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion
Wednesday, July 8	6:00p 7:00p	Committee Meetings Church Council
Thursday, July 9	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, July 12	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion

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



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