



9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING MUSIC

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Arr. Paul Baloche

One License #5806

Yes, Lord, Yes

Arr. Lynn Keesecker

One License #23767

Sanctuary

Arr. John Thompson & Randy Scruggs

One License #119603

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

Come Now is the Time to Worship

Verse:

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Chorus:

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Ending:

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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INVOCATION SONG

We Are Gathered Here

**We are gathered here in the name of the Father.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Father,
chosen by God's grace.**

**We are gathered here in the name of the Son.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Son,
chosen by God's grace.**

**We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit,
chosen by God's grace.**

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Karol Baer and David Lee Brown
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

O Lord, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you have in store for us today.

Cleanse our minds of all distracting thoughts. Cleanse also the desires of our hearts.

O Lord, you know us through and through. You know our sinfulness.

Father, we confess we have sinned against you, and against other people. We have failed in loving You as we ought. We have also failed to love our neighbors.

Forgive us for our sins of commission-

For those things we did and thought—that we ought not.

Forgive us also for our sins of omission

For our failures in thought, word and deed.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them.

So we ask your mercy once again, for the sake of Jesus.

We pray your healing power—that we might delight in your will,

And by our lives bring glory to your name.

Amen.

In His mercy, God gave His Son to die for us and for our sins.
For His sake, God forgives us all our sins.
Therefore, in the name of Christ, and by His authority,
I now declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins.
THEY ARE NO MORE!
Christ has taken them on Himself and removed them.
You are free!
Live in that gracious freedom and be healed in Him.

SONG

Kyrie Eleison

Chorus:

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way
Kyrie Eleison ev'ryday**

**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 (Chorus)**

**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 (Chorus)**

**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 (Chorus)**

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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.

SONG

**We are all on a journey
from the cradle to the grave
We are given life through the price
our Savior had to pay**

Chorus:

**Oh let our hearts praise the Lord
Oh let our hands praise the Lord
Oh let our voices praise the Lord
Oh let our lives praise the Lord**

**We can feel suffering
there is someone near in need
We are given choice, heart, hands, voice,
they are within our reach (Chorus)**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Beloved and sovereign God,
**through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of
justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life
that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.



WORD

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

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Help Us, O Lord
(Sung twice)***

Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.

Open our hearts to feel your word.

Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the

good into baskets but threw out the bad.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

- 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!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***

- 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 INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

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

The Potter's Hand

Arr. Darlene Zschech

CCLI #2449771

OFFERING SONG

Everybody's Got Something to Offer

Chorus:

Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
in the name of the Lord

To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears (Chorus)
To the believers gathered here
the message it is true
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do (Chorus)

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our hands.
Signs of your gracious love.
Help us 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.

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

Benediction Song – echo song

L) May the Lord bless and keep us;
L) Make his face to shine upon us;
L) May his blessing go with us;
L) and give us peace
L) In the name of the Father;
L) In the name of the Son;
L) In the name of the Spirit;
L) All three –in-one;

(leader in italics; congregation in bold)

C) May the Lord bless and keep us.
C) Make his face to shine upon us.
C) May his blessing go with us.
C) And – give – us - peace
C) In the name of the Father
C) In the name of the Son.
C) In the name of the Spirit
C) ALL – THREE – IN – ONE!

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gigue

GF Handel, arr. Lani Smith

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Account #73982207—6/3/2027

Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers:
Dilshad and 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 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.

A sign up sheet for parking cars during the Sibley County Fair is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and on the table near Pastor Gretchen's office.

Pictures for the Announcements: What are you doing this summer? Send a picture into the office to be included on the announcement slides.

Reminder: The church will be locked during the Sibley County Fair starting at noon.

Worship Assistants

July 26

Usher: Jim & Wendy Pederson
Peg Kamps, Francis Rowe
Greeter: John & Lana Woehler
Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark
Reader: Brenda Danielson
AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Elton Hazelwood

August 2

Usher: Jane Scharpe, Dave Breyer
Jan Wark, Scott Bergs
Greeter: Jackie Alsleben
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
Reader: Scott Bergs
Altar Guild: Nancy Mathwig, Jane Scharpe
Bread Maker: Carrie Bartlette

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Office Hours for the week of July 26

Tuesday, July 28—12p-4p

Wednesday, July 29—2:30p-4p

or by appointment

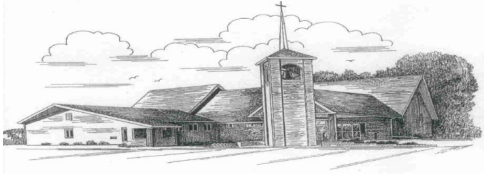
Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

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Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, July 26	9:00a	Contemporary Worship
Monday, July 27	1:00p 5-6:15p	WELCA Conference Meeting Feed My Starving Children packing
Tuesday, July 28	10:00a	Quilting
Wednesday, July 29—August 2		Sibley County Fair
Thursday, July 30	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, August 2	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion

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

