

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2026

Matthew 16:24, ESV



...let him
deny himself
and **take up his cross**
and **follow me.**

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The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.



GATHERING

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

GATHERING MUSIC

This Is The Day

CCLI #32754

Pass It On

One License #lca-2013-03

Glorify Thy Name

CCLI #1383

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

Words and Music by Larry Olson

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

The Journey of Praise

**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

O God,
**we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to
follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**



WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

- 1 My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee, all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'Tis now.**

- 2 I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'Tis now.**

- 3 In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll singing with the glittering crown on my brow.
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'Tis now.**

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

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

**Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the
name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

THE PEACE



OFFERING

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

OFFERING

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Public Domain

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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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;

Benediction Song

(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

Thoughts on Simple Gifts

Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

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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!

Welcome to Pastor Elizabeth Becker. Thank you for leading us in worship today.

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

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

Ecumenical Music In The Park will be on Sunday, August 30 at 5:30 at Four Seasons Park. Refreshments available for purchase from 5-6:30p. An offering of canned food or cash will be taken for the Sibley County Food Shelf.

Blessing of the Backpacks will be held today.

Worship Assistants

August 30

Usher: Mary Lietz, Nancy Mathwig
Gordon & Barb Bergs
Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs
Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood
Reader: Bruce Kallhoff
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

September 6

Usher: Ross Bergs, Scott Bergs
Ryan & Kate Bergs
Greeter: Sandy Bergs
Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
Reader: Murdock Krueger
AV Team: Matt Giesen & Tim Michaelis

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

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

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Hunger Jar
8/23/2026	\$ 835.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 35.00



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, August 30	9:00a	Contemporary Worship
		Blessing of the Backpacks
	5:30p	Ecumenical Music In The Park
Tuesday, September 1	10:00a	Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday, September 2	1:30p	Wednesday Bible Study
Thursday, September 3	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, September 6	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion

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