

THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, FERNDALE
10:30 AM, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026

Prelude

Scott Schroeder

Welcome & Announcements

The Box

Juniors Explore leave following
(children ages 4-5 through middle school)

Processional Hymn

“Earth and All Stars!”

Hymnal 731

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
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Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Assistant: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Kyrie (led by cantor)

(ELW page 120)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.

For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of God be with you all. **And also with you!**

At Zion we share the ASL/universal sign for peace, or other non-physical contact to greet one another.

U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
 come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;

u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.
 come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Assistant: O God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-13

- ⁸ God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **God will not always accuse,
nor will keep anger forever.**
- ¹⁰ God does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward those who fear God;**
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ **As a parent has compassion for their children,
so God has compassion for those who fear God.**

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

(ELW page 124)



Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Living One. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation

Special Music

“Over My Head”

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Pastor Matthew Bode

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you,
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name,
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Vicar: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

(ELW 752)



Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need, especially those on our hearts today...To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Pastor: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory:

"For the Fruit of All Creation" - verse 1
(to the tune of "All Through the Night")

Hymn 679

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.*

1 For the fruit of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re-ward of la-bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev-'ry na-tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in-her-it, thanks be to God.

For the plow-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
In our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun-gry and de-spair-ing,
For the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Offertory Prayer:

Pastor: Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Ways to give -

- Venmo @ZionFerndale (confirmation code 7498)
- Vanco mobile app (code VHLXGH)
- www.zionlutheranmi.org



- Offering plate located in the middle of the center aisle
- Mail to church mailing address

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Savior Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim Christ's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



Holy One, remember us in your reign and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution

Zion welcomes and encourages those of all faith backgrounds to communion. We believe that the death and resurrection of Christ makes us all worthy and needing of the sacrament regardless of background, age or any other factor.



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
 What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
 What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

"I Received the Living God"



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



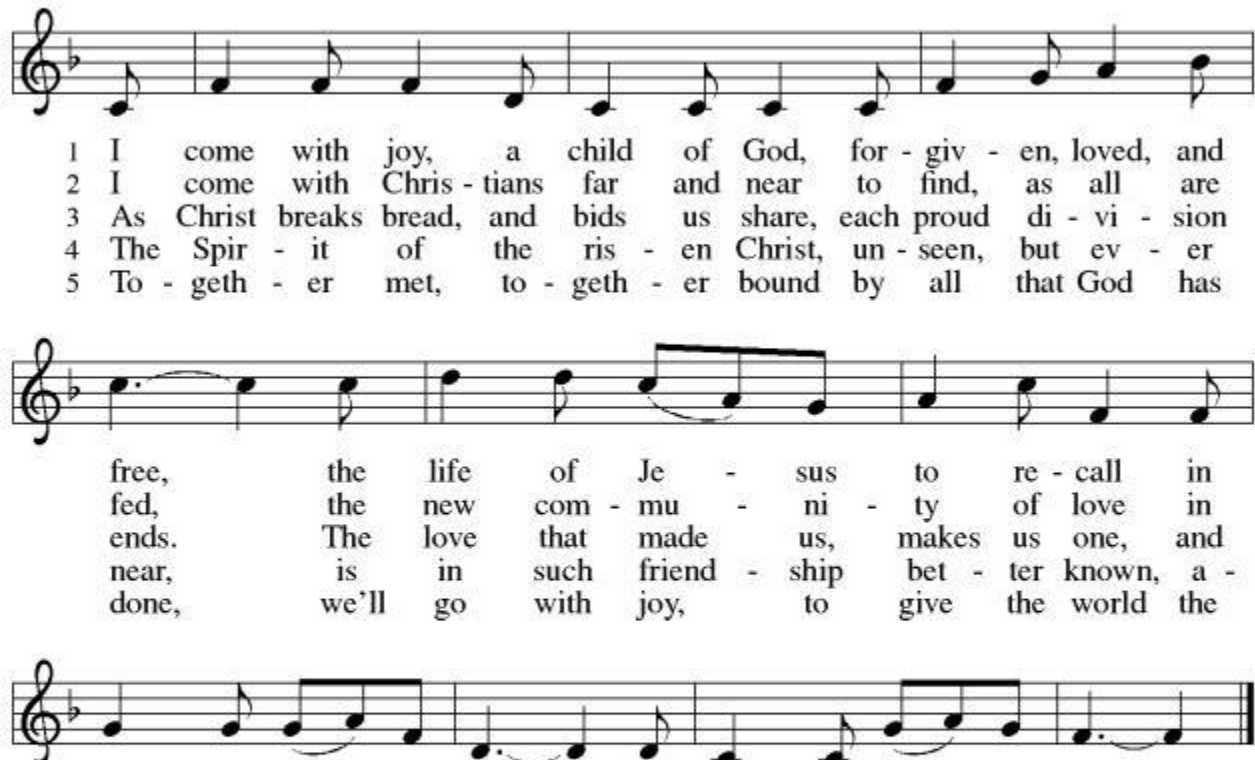
you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
 so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
 You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
 but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Pastor: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

"I Come with Joy"

Hymn 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Charge & Benediction

Pastor: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Vicar: Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Scott Schroeder

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assistant Minister: Judy Arthofer

Lector: Kenn Jones

Cantor: Randi Hamilton

Juniors Teachers: Cecelia Mac-Smith/Eric Podolsky

Staff:

The Rev. Matthew Bode, Pastor

Intern: Vicar Kelle Shepherd-Bhavsar

Office Manager: Stacey Jamison

Custodian: Anthony Bailey

Chancel and Bell Choir Director: Roger Smith

Organist: Scott Schroeder

Juniors Music Ministry: Stacey Jamison

Tech Ministry: George Stuteville

Zion Council/Lay Leadership:

Emily Corey, President

Natalie Melnick, Vice President

Cecelia Mac-Smith, Secretary

Dagmar Jones, Treasurer

Brian Griffin

Mark Jones

Ann McChesney

Matt Northcott

Jackie Oliver

Michael Weiszbrod