

**THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, FERNDALE**  
**10:30 AM, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**Prelude**

Scott Schroeder

**Welcome & Announcements**

**The Box**

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

**Processional Hymn**

"God is Here!"

Hymnal 526

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sas - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each,  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 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.

Vicar: 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**

Vicar: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. <sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your

ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

### **Psalms 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O God, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Make me to know your ways, O God;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O God!

<sup>8</sup> **Good and upright is God;  
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup> God leads the humble in what is right  
and teaches the humble God's way.

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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



**Matthew 21:23-32**

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

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Special Music**

"Softly and Tenderly"

Zion Chancel Choir and Lansing First Presbyterian Church Choir - Megan Higle, director

**Sermon**

Pastor Matthew Bode

1 Lord, keep us steady in your word; curb those who  
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.  
 and may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
 and lead us out of death to life.

### 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

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



Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially those we bring to you now.... Grant us your salvation. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. To you, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. 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](http://www.zionlutheranmi.org)
- Offering plate located in the middle of the center aisle
- Mail to church mailing address



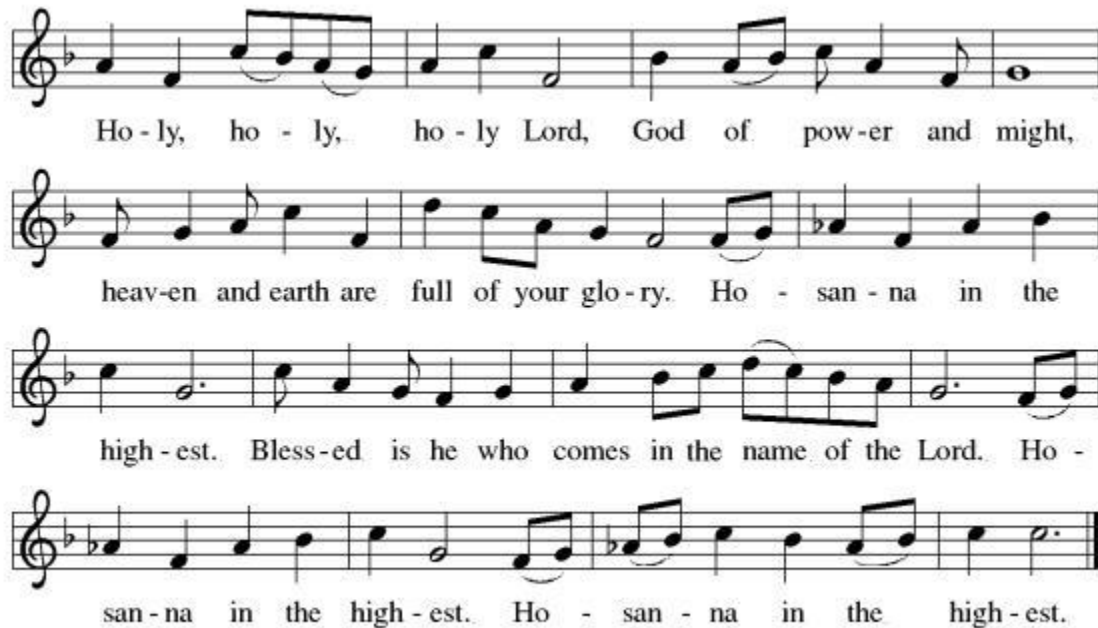
## Eucharistic Prayer

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 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble,  
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey,  
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv-er,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble, some of these days.  
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.  
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv-er, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble,  
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey,  
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv-er,

I'm goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta-ble, some of these days.  
I'm goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.  
I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv-er, some of these days.



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave,  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side.  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - and grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

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.**

### Special Music

#### "I'll Fly Away"

Zion Chancel Choir and Lansing First Presbyterian Church Choir - Roger Smith, director



1 I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me.  
3 When I was in trou - ble, I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble, I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble, sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
Je - sus lift - ed me.

**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.**

Assistant: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Scott Schroeder

**Today's Worship Leaders:**

Assistant Minister: Jim Littrell

Lector: Sandy Ayers

Cantor: Kenn Jones

Juniors Teachers: Anna Demsich/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