

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
Lewistown, Montana
Sunday, April 26, 2020 worship
Third Sunday of Easter**

GATHERING

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

MINISTRY OF ZION

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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 our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Jesus, We Are Gathered: Jesu, tawa pano* (ELW 529)



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath - ered,



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je-sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri

Music: JESU, TAWA PANO, Patrick Matsikenyiri

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the exile, you took your lamb, Jesus, and gave him as an offering to take away the sin of the world. You brought us out of the captivity of sin and made us a people of the promise. You transformed our futility into completeness and sent us out to proclaim your good news. Build up our trust in you. Give us faith in your love, and hope in your power to make all things new. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

<http://www.zionlewistownelca.com/grow/online-learning>

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 1:13-23

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹³Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

¹⁷If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile

ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Are Called* (ELW 720)



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
 fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
 one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Awaken the heart of your church, O God. Make us fervent with love for your gospel, that we are empowered to tell the story of your love in our lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks that the earth is experiencing a time of rest and renewal, especially in urban settings where the air is clearer than it has been in years. Keep us mindful of our impact on your creation and our commission to tend and steward the gifts you have given us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In this time of economic strain for people, communities, and nations, guide leaders at every level to share resources for the good of all. Give us all glad and generous hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give rest to all who call upon your healing name. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to God for every good gift.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Jesus, our savior and friend, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and truly present to us here and now. Since we cannot now receive you in the bread and wine, we remember and trust your words, “This is my body; this is my blood—given for you.” We love you and ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you. Keep all of us strong in faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

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.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Listen, God Is Calling: Neno lake Mungu (ELW 513)*

Refrain
Leader All



Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,



ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

Leader All



Ye - su a - li - se - ma, Mka - hu - bi - ri.
1 Je - sus gave his man - date: share the good news
2 Let none be for - got - ten through - out the world.
3 Help us to be faith - ful, stand - ing stead - fast,

Leader All *Refrain*



Ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la wo - ko - vu.
that he came to save us and set us free.
In the tri - une name of God go and bap - tize.
walk - ing in your pre - cepts, led by your Word.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
Music: NENO LAKE MUNGU, Tanzanian tune
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

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Prayer for Spiritual Communion was written by Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787) a Catholic Bishop who wrote the popular Lenten Devotional “The Way of the Cross”. Pr Lynne Ogren rewrote it from an individual to a corporate prayer.

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