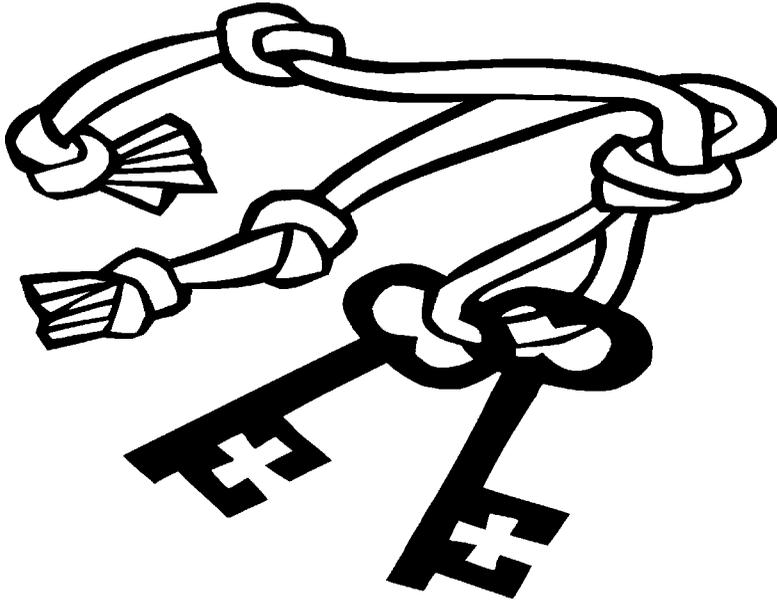


# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

August 23, 2020 12th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to worship today!

In this season of pandemic, our congregation is following the guidelines of the Central Montana Health District and the Montana Synod.

If you have or recently had a fever, cough, or shortness of breath please do not worship in the church today.

Face masks or coverings are expected in the entry area before and after the service.

Once you are seated, masks may be removed.

However, if four or more cases of Covid-19 come to Fergus County we will require face masks be worn throughout the worship service.

If any of these conditions is not possible for you, our worship services are available online: Zion Website: <http://www.zionlewistownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

**Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
**August 23, 2020 12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

(\*Stand)

**GATHERING**

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

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence  
in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit,  
lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with  
God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

**\*GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

O God,

C **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**PREPARATION FOR THE WORD: *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* (vs 1)**

*Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.*

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.  
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.  
<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.  
<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8**

*In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.*

A reading from Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life.

**C      Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

*At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.*

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

## **\*CREED**

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

P Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING SONG: As the Grains of Wheat

#### *Refrain*

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.*

*1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain*

*2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain*

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

P God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C **Amen.**

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** 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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***O LAMB OF GOD***

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.*

**COMMUNION**

*Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.*

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

**SENDING**

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

**MINISTRY OF ZION**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
C Amen.

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

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*As the Grains of Wheat*

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**Pianist: Rhonda Kepner**  
**Ushers: Monte & Starla Solberg**  
**Lector: Lynette Sallee**  
**Communion Assistants: Foss Wilson,**  
**Disciples: All the Baptized**  
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**Welcome!** Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe (Pr. Lynne's mother), Vonnie  
Ortgies

**Homebound Members:** LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau

**Social Concern for August: Montana Synod Covid 19 Relief Fund**

The Montana Synod has established a Covid-19 Disaster Grant Fund for congregations who are facing challenges to pay expenses due to reduced giving, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like to contribute, please make your check to Zion and note “Covid-19” on the memo line.

**Week of 8/24 – 8/30/2020**

Mon	7:00pm	Council meeting
Sun	9:30am	Worship

**Altar Guild** is in need of volunteers for the months of October 2020, January 2021 and July 2021. The primary task is to prepare for Holy Communion each week. For more information about the duties, contact Avis, 538-9401, or the office.

**Lutheran World Relief** continues to serve vulnerable individuals and communities all over the world during and in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to contribute items for these kits, a list of items is available on the narthex table and also on the church website. Items can be delivered to church on Sundays or in the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Serving on Staff:  
Secretary: Lana Papp  
Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator: Lynn Franz  
Sunday School Superintendent: Falan Aanenson  
Rainbow Choir Director: Debby Shobe  
Custodians: Kent & Nina Yunker