

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana
September 27, 2020



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.zionlewisownelca.com/worship/video-services>

YouTube Channel: Zion Lutheran Church, Lewistown, MT

Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)
September 27, 2020 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

(*Stand)

GATHERING

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Welcome this day to the house of our God.

C We gather in peace and in love.

P Welcome this day to the worship of our Creator.

C We worship in hope and with grace.

P Welcome this day to our community of faith,

C We meet together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

***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.

CALL TO PRAYER *Hear Our Prayer*

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

God of love,

C **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 and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence,
but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
¹³for 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.
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

²³When [Jesus] 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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So 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.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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 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.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INSERTED MUSIC *Soli Deo Gloria** (vs 1 & 4)

*1 O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
you are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*4 All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
through word and witness, in bread and wine;
incarnate love song of boundless grace,
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
your steadfast kindness with human face:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!*

*Soli Deo Gloria means “To God alone be the glory!”

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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.

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 Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

COMMUNION

Please remain seated, communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG

*O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.
O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

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

MINISTRY OF ZION

*BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatiscgood.com

Serving Us:

Pr. Lynne Ogren

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Ushers: Dale & Gail Kurns

Lector: Cheyenne Aanenson

Communion Assistant: Josi Maier, Molly Sura

Disciples: All the Baptized

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Welcome! Before worship, you are invited to read and reflect.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe,
Vonnie Ortgies, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Scott Smyth (son-in-law of d'Autremont's)

Homebound Members: LaVerna Conard, Mary Westburg, DeAnn Paulson, Dorothy Adcock, Bob Papp, Harriet Irish, Don Pfau, Russ Hodge, Marv Mathison

Social Concern for September: Lutheran World Relief is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief and recovery. Zion’s members have been supporting LWR by collecting items for school kits, health kits, baby kits and our quilters have been making quilts. If you would like to donate items, an up-dated list of what is needed is on the narthex table. If you would like to donate money, please make your check out to Zion and note “LWR” on the memo line.

Week of 9/28 – 10/4/20

Mon	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Tue	10:00am	Staff Meeting
Wed	Noon	Men over lunch at the Elks Club
	3:30pm	Confirmation & Elementary Learning (grades 2-6)
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
Sun	9:30am	Worship
	10:15am	Faith Formation for children in the fellowship hall
	11:00am	Worship

Wednesday, September 30th, begins our after school elementary learning time for 2nd through 6th grades. Highland Park students will walk from school. Lewis and Clark students will be driven in cars. We have one driver so far and need another. Contact Falan, 350-2112, if you can help out.

Faith Formation for Children: beginning October 4th, there will be a learning time for preschool through first grade children and the adult of their choice. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall between two services, so you may worship at 9:30 and stay after or come at 10:15 and worship at 11am. This will be a fun time for children and a parent or grandparent or another trusted adult to learn and pray and grow together in faith!

Ministry Opportunities – Volunteers are need to serve as ushers, communion assistants and ushers at 9:30 and 11am worship services. If you would like to serve, please fill out the enclosed form and return to the office.

ZLCW is planning a mini bazaar in December which will feature wreaths, lefse and a quilt raffle. Sign-up sheets for making lefse, gathering greens, making wreaths and selling the items in the church parking lot on December 5th will be available in early October.

Christ in Our Home for October, November, December is available on the narthex table.

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