

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lewistown, Montana

November 8, 2020 23rd 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.

Due to the rising number of active COVID cases in Fergus County **face coverings are required 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)
November 8, 2020 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Today Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

(*Stand)

GATHERING

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

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **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.**

P Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

C **Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**

P At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

C **By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

P 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.

C **Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

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

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 of justice and love,

C **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING *Blessed Assurance*

Stan Olson

***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 Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of
God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

(Response to petitions)

P Gracious God,

C your kingdom come.

P Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when
you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C Amen.

***PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring*

- 1 *Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.
We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.*

- 2 *The vines were planted, seeds were sown.
They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.*

- 3 *Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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 God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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 There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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.*

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 Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

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

MINISTRY OF ZION

Danielle Barth, Love INC

BLESSING *Remember and Rejoice (ST. THOMAS)(vs 1 & 4)*

*1 Remember and rejoice,
renewed by floods of grace.
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,
that time cannot erase.*

*4 God, bless us by your grace;
remind us of your care.
Renewing Spirit, fill us now,
inspire our work, our prayer.*

***DISMISSAL**

P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Serving Us:
Pr. Lynne Ogren
Pianist: Meryl McKenna
Ushers: 9:30 & 11am - Stan & Audrey Olson
Lector: 9:30 & 11 – Audrey Olson
Communion Assistants:
9:30 – Audrey Olson
11 – Audrey Olson, Lana Papp
Disciples: All the Baptized
Website: www.zionlewistownelca.com
Contact us: 538-5082 zionelca@midrivers.com

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Jessie Stewart, Myrna Heppe, Jim Flagg, Carmen Larson, Wendy Pfau, Dianne Kaldor (Meryl McKenna's sister)

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

Social Concern for November: Love, INC. Gap Ministry – “When people come to Love, INC, more often than not, they are caught up in crisis. Gap Ministries help to “quiet the crisis” so that the real work of teaching, relationship building and transformation can begin.” Zion has agreed to host a Personal Care Closet which will help to fill one of the “gaps”. Items needed are listed on a bright green card available on the narthex table. If you would like to help supply some of these items, please bring them to the church and place them in the paper bags labeled “Gap Ministry”. Questions call the office, 538-5082.

Our **Christian sympathy** to the families of Maxine Troth and Vonnie Ortgies. Maxine's Service of Resurrection was held at Zion on November 4th and Vonnie's service is still pending. Both ladies will be missed by many family members and friends.

Today

Danielle Barth, Love INC, will be speaking about Gap Ministry.

Week of 11/9 – 11/15/2020

Tue	9:30am	Rachel Circle
Wed	6:45am	Men's Bible Study
	Noon	Men over lunch at the Elks
	3:30pm	BLAST
	3:45pm	Confirmation
Thur	9:00am	Quilting
	Noon	Women's Podcast
	1:30pm	Ruth Circle
	4:00pm	Hosanna Circle
Sun	9:30am	Worship
	11:00am	Worship

ZLCW Mini Bazaar December 5. Pre-orders for lefse and wreaths are being taken; sign-up sheets are on the narthex table. Sign-up sheets for gathering greens and making wreaths are also on the narthex table. Cindy Giese has made and donated a quilt, raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00 and will be sold in the narthex through the month of November or call the office. Your help is needed, please volunteer today!

St. James Episcopal Church will be hosting a Thanksgiving Day dinner, delivery only, and is looking for help to put this together. Please call Jean Collins, 406-396-0920, to volunteer.

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