

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 13, 2026



Welcome to worship today!

As a reminder 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

September 13, 2026 16th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us
from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we
may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus
Christ, our Savior and 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 In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his
sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church
of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of
all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *We Are Called*

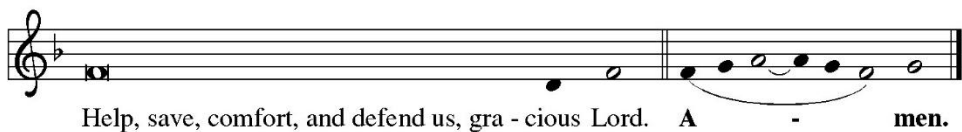
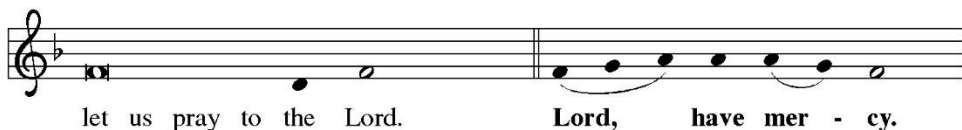
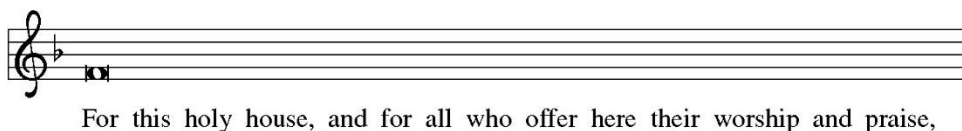
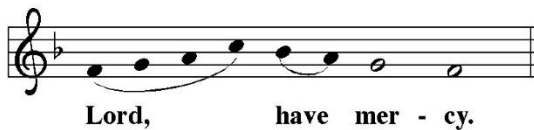
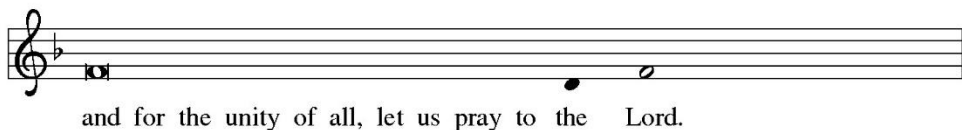
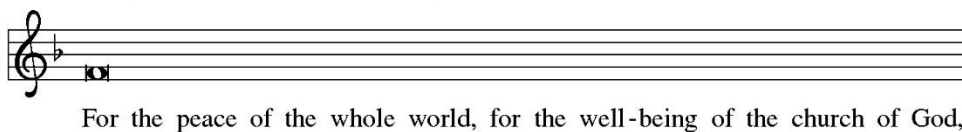
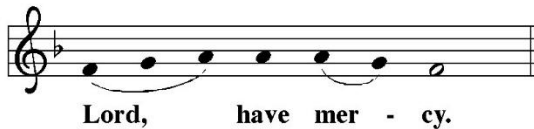
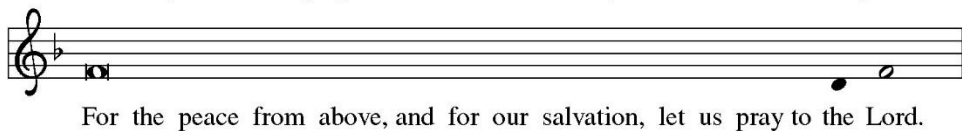
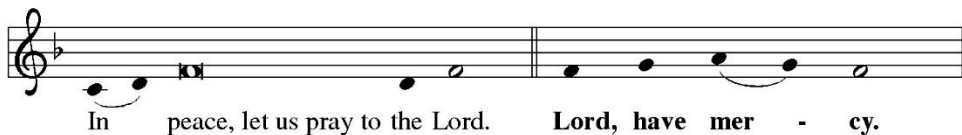
(ELW 720)

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.**

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p.148)

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God,
C **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13 (Spoken responsively)

⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love;

⁹ **you will not al- ¹ ways accuse us,**
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according ¹ to our sins,
nor repaid us according to ¹ our iniquities.

¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for ¹ those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion | for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *What Wondrous Love Is This*

(ELW 666)

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 THE PEOPLE

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

(Response to prayers)

P Hear us, O God

C **Your mercy is great.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

(ELW 742)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines.

PREFACE

P 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a comma, the second with a period, the third with a period, and the fourth with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

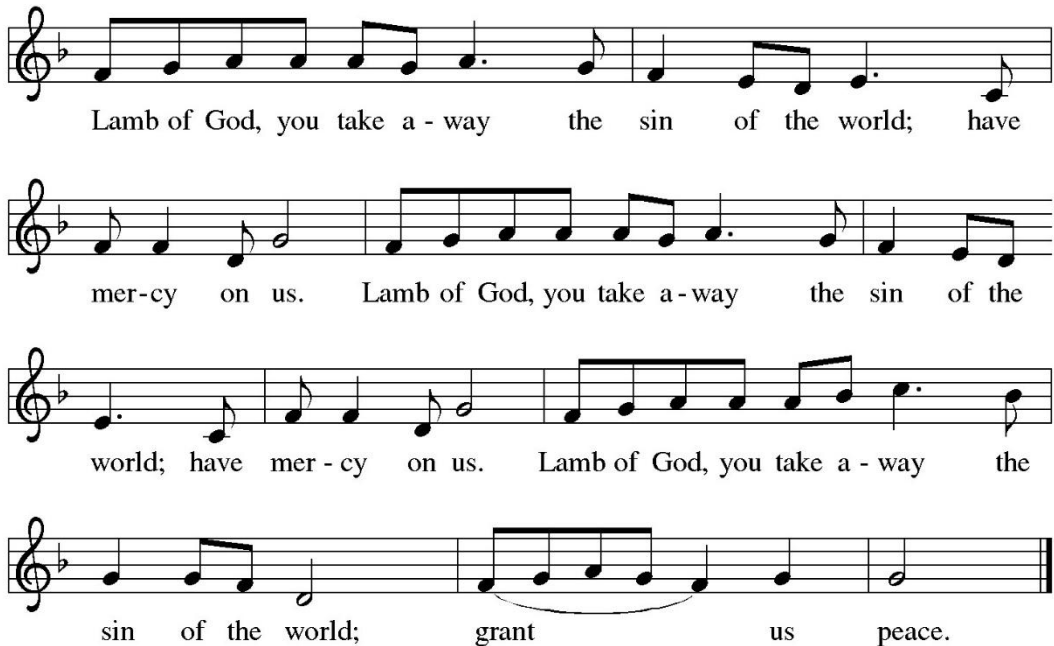
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

SONG DURING COMMUNION *Will You Come and Follow Me* (ELW 798)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C 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. Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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

C Amen.

SENDING SONG *Canticle of the Turning*

(ELW 723)

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS007700.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted with permission from Onelicense.net A-725307 & CCLI

Serving Us:

Pastor: Stacey Heggem

Pianist: Rhonda Jeide

Lector: George Maruska

Communion Assistants: Starla Solberg

Ushers:

Greeter: Donna Strouf

PowerPoint: Monte Solberg

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Scott, Ed, Norma D., Tia (Pam Bowen's granddaughter), Ken, Scott, Mike, Dianne, Krista, Tracy, Gordon, Pam, Margie, Maureen, Mark, Wayne, Suzie, Avis & Stephanie

Please call the office if you would like to join Prayer Partners.

Social Concern for September: Love INC.

Our vision is to see Christian churches united in purpose & fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their community.

When Christian churches across denominations come together in a unity of purpose - to serve their neighbors in need - the world takes note. Heart of Montana Love INC helps churches coordinate their efforts and complement one another in effective outreach.

Overall, our mission is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. Practically speaking then, we're a network of churches that links church ministries and volunteers to people in need. We cooperate with churches, community agencies, other nonprofits, and community businesses to provide effective help for anyone facing a tough time.

Week of 9/14 – 9/20

9/15	9:30am	Rachel Circle
9/16	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch
	3:30pm	B.L.A.S.T, Rainbow Choir & Confirmation
	4:30pm	Wee Singers
	6:00pm	Youth Bible Study
9/17	9:00am	Quilting
	12:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
9/20	9:30am	Worship

Week of 9/21 – 9/27

9/23	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch
	3:30pm	B.L.A.S.T, Rainbow Choir & Confirmation
	4:30pm	Wee Singers
	6:00pm	Youth Bible Study
9/24	9:00am	Quilting
	12:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
9/27	9:30am	Worship

Items needed for LRW School Kits and Personal Care Kits

- 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper 8 x 10 ½ size
- 30 cm rulers or centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Blunt scissors
- Pencil sharpeners
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel)
- Light weight bath towel (between 20" x 40" & 52" x 27") dark color
- Adult size toothbrush in its original packaging