

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 20, 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 20, 2026 17th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C **Amen.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**
- L 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.**

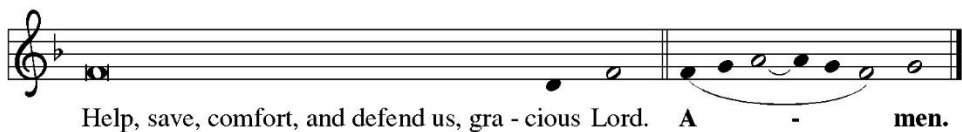
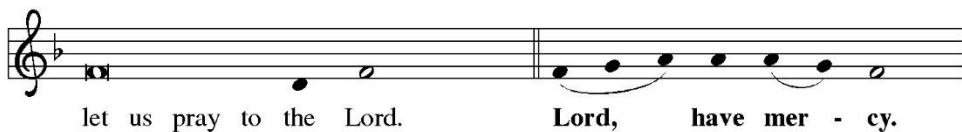
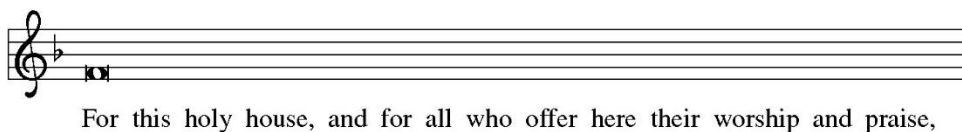
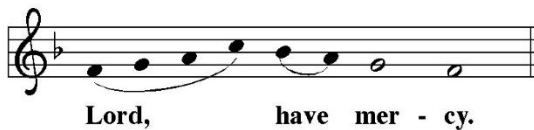
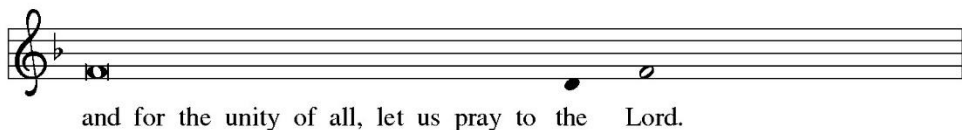
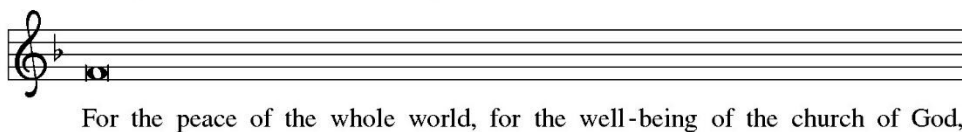
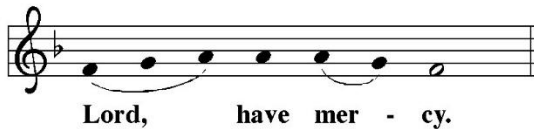
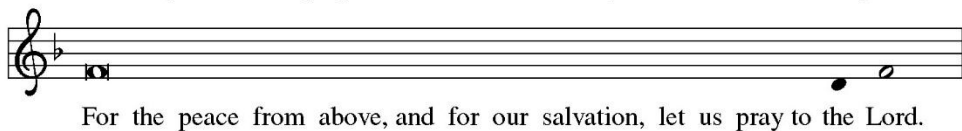
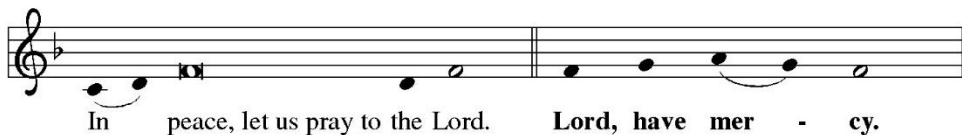
GATHERING SONG *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

(ELW 777)

GREETING

- L 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

L Let us pray. O God,
C **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8 (Spoken responsively)

¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

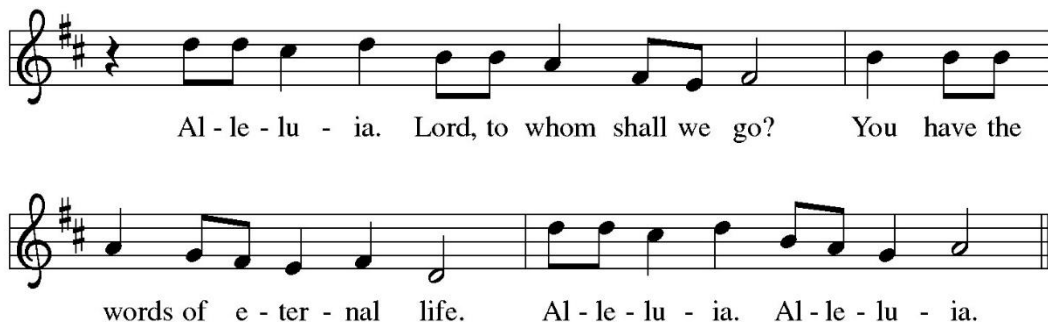
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction

but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

L The holy gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made

them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Change My Heart, O God*

(ELW 801)

CREED

L 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

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

(Response to prayers)

L Hear us, O God

C **Your mercy is great.**

L 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

L 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 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

(ELW 858)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L 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 score 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 quarter and eighth notes, with slurs indicating phrasing. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PREFACE

- L 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

L 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

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

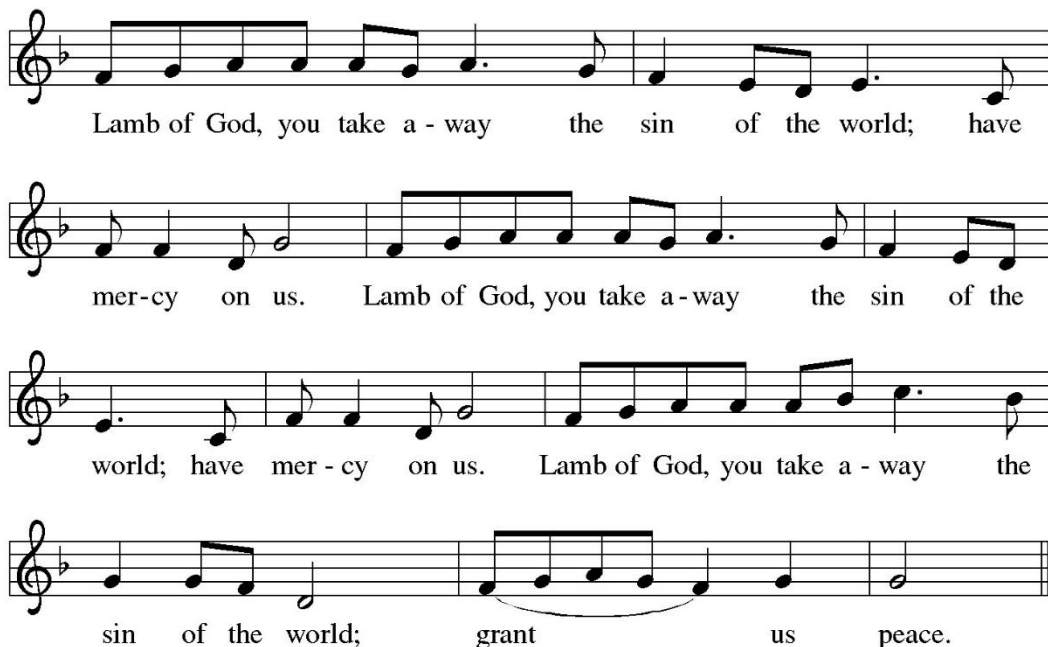
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L 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 *As the Deer Runs to the River*

(ELW 331)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L 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

L The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

L The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

L The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

(ELW 543)

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Serving Us:

Lay Minister: Meryl McKenna

Pianist: Rhonda Jeide

Lector: Karen Combs

Communion Assistants: Lynn Franz & Linda Robinson

Ushers: Bill & Vickey Cowen

PowerPoint: Kyrie Benes

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 9/21 – 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

Week of 9/28 – 10/4

9/30	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch
	3:30pm	B.L.A.S.T, Rainbow Choir & Confirmation
	4:30pm	Wee Singers
	6:00pm	Youth Bible Study
10/1	9:00am	Quilting
	12:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
10/4	9:30am	Worship
	10:30am	Adult Forum

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