

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 27, 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 27, 2026 18th 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.**

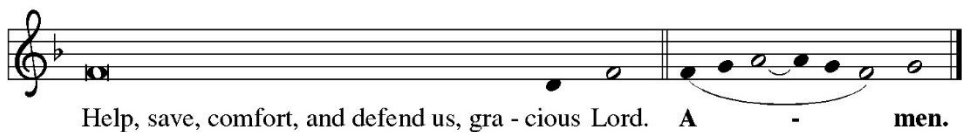
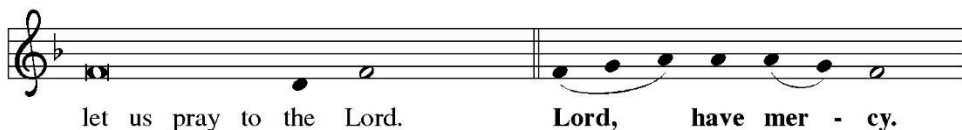
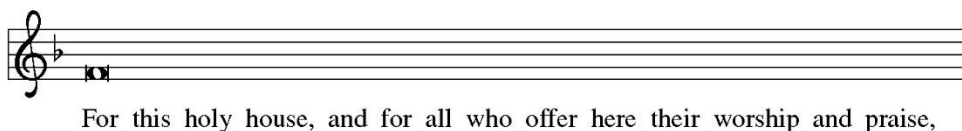
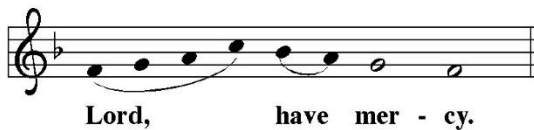
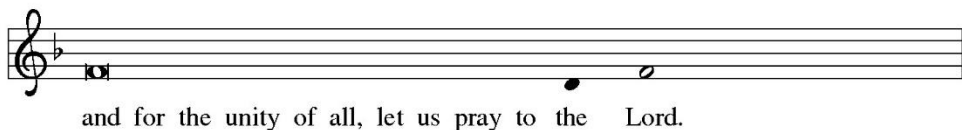
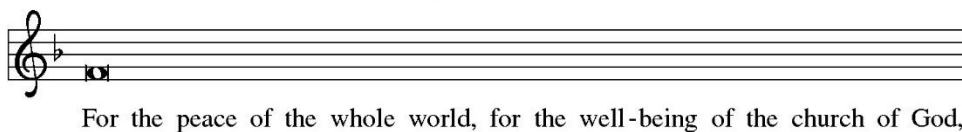
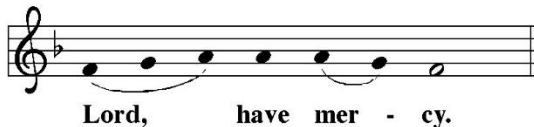
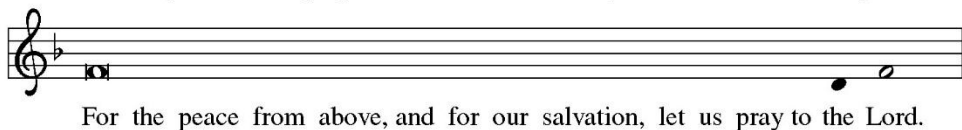
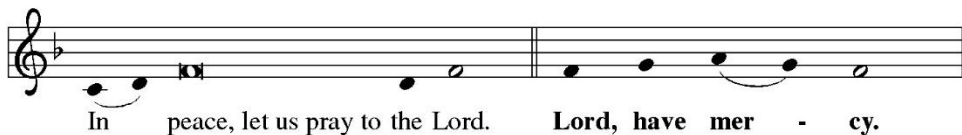
GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

(ELW 504)

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.

C **God of love, 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.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (Spoken responsively)

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O
LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

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

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,
¹³ for 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 ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 151)



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

L The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

²³ When [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?” ²⁴ Jesus 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. ²⁵ Did 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?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So 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.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which 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. ³² For 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.”

L The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now Thank We All Our God*

(ELW 839)

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

(ELW 879)

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 some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across bar lines.

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.

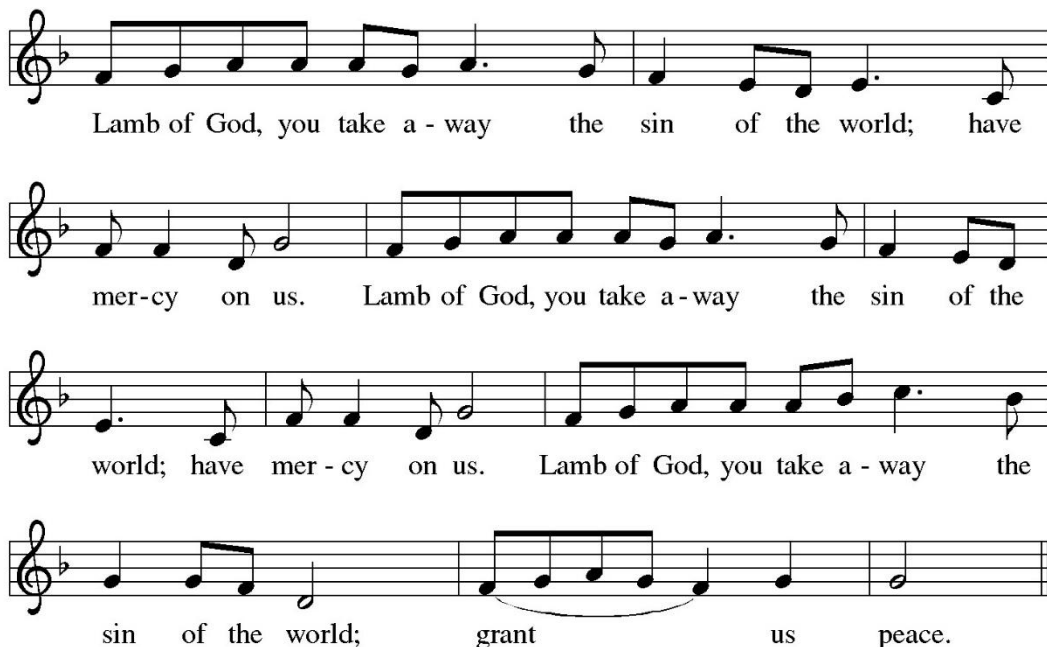
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

(ELW 496)

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 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

(ELW 855)

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Serving Us:

Lay Minister: Roger Woltermann

Pianist: Meryl McKenna

Lector: Dana Leininger

Communion Assistants: Bill & Vickey Cowen

Usher: Wayne Leininger

Greeters: Donna Strouf & Sharon Nordahl

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, 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 9/28 – 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

Week of 10/5 – 10/11

10/6	5:30pm	Caring Ministry
10/7	12:00pm	Men Over Lunch
	3:30pm	B.L.A.S.T, Rainbow Choir & Confirmation
	4:30pm	Wee Singers
	6:00pm	Youth Bible Study
10/8	9:00am	Quilting
	12:00pm	Zoom Bible Study
10/11	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