Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

"Bonded in Christ's love, we teach, preach, and equip God's people for discipleship here and throughout the world."

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion

November 15, 2020

Prelude – Bell

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

We will be using the individual packaged communion wafer and juice this morning. Peel the clear wrapper off the top and take and eat the wafer. If you need assistance, please contact one of the church council members and they will help. Peel the foil wrapper off next and drink the juice. If you need assistance, please contact one of the church council members and they will help. Please dispose of the empty container as you leave worship this morning,

Gathering

P- Our readings during November speak of end times.
C- So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:12*
P- Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress.
C- So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:12*
P- Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober.
C- So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:12*
P- Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good..
C- So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *Psalm 90:12*

Gathering Song

Confession & Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins.
P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C- Amen
Silence is kept for reflection.
P- Holy One,
C- we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.
P- Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our beloved, opens the door to us,
through + Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
C- Amen.
Please be seated.

Children's Time – Numbering Our Days
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Lector – *Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from the Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
  For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
  he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
  and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
  those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,

nor will he do harm.'
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 90:1-12
Read responsively.

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.
So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

1st Thessalonians 5:1-11

Lector – *Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica:*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security", then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for

us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day
P- Righteous God, our merciful master,
C- you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Matthew 25:14-30

P- *Jesus tells the parable of his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided. Jesus said:*

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him,

and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' " The Gospel of the Lord!

Message – Taking a Risk!
*There is **risk** involved in exposing our **FAITH** and values to the glare of public examination. Unless we are willing to put it all on the line, taking chances for the sake of increasing God's gospel harvest, we will end up losing what we had to start with. Take a **RISK for heaven's sake!***

Offering Hymn – When Peace Like a River *(It is Well with My Soul)*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:
It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

He lives – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

Offering Prayer
As you are able, please stand.
P- God of all goodness,
C- generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them
as we gather these gifts for your abundance,
and may we give thanks for your rich blessings,
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, "Lord in your mercy" please respond by saying,* ***"Hear our prayer!"***

Words of Institution

P- In the night in which he was betrayal, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples to eat, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Peel the clear wrapper off the top and take and eat the wafer. If you need assistance, please contact one of the church council members and they will help.

P- 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Peel the foil wrapper off next and drink the juice. If you need assistance, please contact one of the church council members and they will help. Please dispose of the empty container as you leave worship this morning,

Lord's Prayer

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.

P- Friends of Jesus, come to the table.
Receive nourishment for your journey.
Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior are welcome to the Lord's Table to partake in the bread and wine to your benefit.)* Please follow the usher's instructions and communion will be served by flow through. Gluten free wafers are

available on the tray in bowls that protect the wafer from the gluten of the bread.

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

P- May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us blessed,
who strengthens us for service,
giving us reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
saving + Son,
and Holy Spirit,
be with you today and tomorrow.
C- Amen.
P- Go in peace and serve the Lord!
C- Thanks be to God.

ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Song

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