

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Ministry
at Zion for Cantor Kurt R. Schmidt
November 19, 2023**



"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."

Matthew 25:29

ZION
Ministries Under the Cross
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Welcome to Zion!

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

(Psalm 95:1-2)



Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

Today's Worship

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

We Gather

PRELUDE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn #726

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

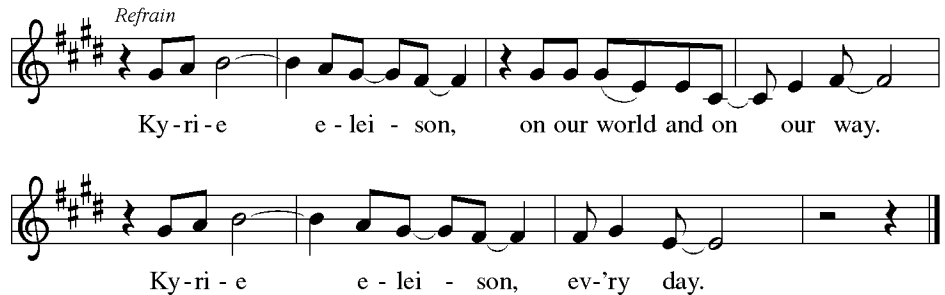
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

"Kyrie eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy."

The Cantor will sing the verses.

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'-ry day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together: **Righteous God, our merciful master, 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 us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

The readings are found on the "Today's Readings" insert.
The page numbers refer to the red Bible in the pew rack.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 (p. 665)

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 90:1-8, 12

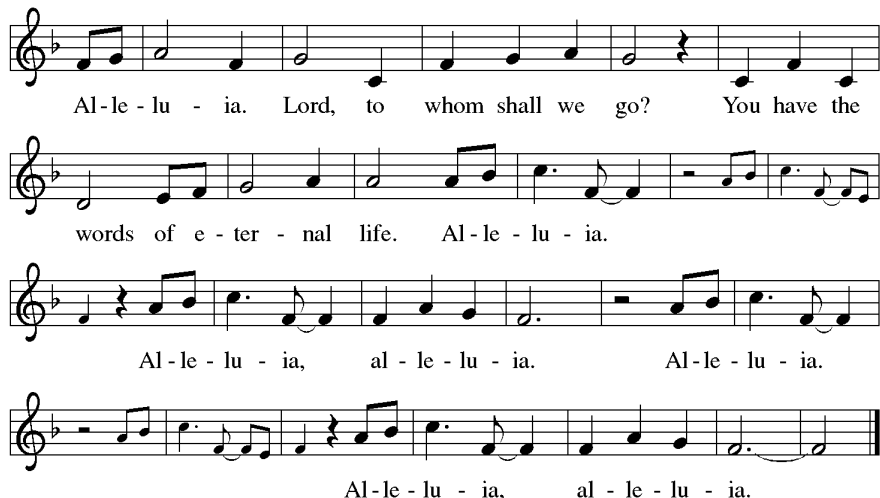
Using the psalm tone printed on the insert, the Cantor and the assembly will chant the Psalm responsively.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (p. 837)

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30 (p. 702)

Before the reading:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

These are the words of our Lord. They are true and can be trusted. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn #815

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
 name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
 will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
 sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -
 gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from



SHARING THE MEAL

Christ's table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

"Christ, Be Our Light"

Hymn #715

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

The assembly responds: Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

SONG & PRAYER FOR SENDING

Hymn #525

"You Are Holy"

Let us pray together...**We give you thanks, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son, uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit. We thank you for raising up among us faithful servants in the church of Christ, especially for Kurt, and we pray that he may continue to exemplify the gospel in word, deed, and song. Grant that we, with Kurt, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING & SENDING HYMN

The Cantor will offer a musical blessing and sing the verses.

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, v'im'ru amen.

v'im'ru = "and we say"

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace.

Christ is sending you. **Thanks be to God.**

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ZION

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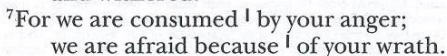
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Righteous God, our merciful master, 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 us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

18 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.

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12; tone 9



9

⁸Our iniquities you have ¹ set before you,
and our secret sins in the light
¹ of your countenance.

[⁹When you are angry,
all our ¹ days are gone;
we bring our years to an end
¹ like a sigh.

¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength ¹ even eighty;

yet the sum of them is but labor
and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly
and ¹ we are gone.

¹¹Who regards the power ¹ of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your ¹ indignation?]

¹²So teach us to num- ¹ ber our days
that we may apply our ¹ hearts
to wisdom.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 [not printed]

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.’ ²¹His 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.’ ²²And 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.’ ²³His 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.’ ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

TODAY'S READINGS November 19, 2023 (Lectionary 33)

Volume 54, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

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Tracks 1 and 2

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



Jesus calls us to action.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 25:14-30 | Parable of the talents |
| Monday | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 | Judgment of Judah |
| Tuesday | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Encourage one another |
| Wednesday | James 1:19-27 | Hearing and doing the word |
| Thursday | James 2:14-26 | Faith without works is dead |
| Friday | 1 John 3:18-24 | Love one another |
| Saturday | Psalms 90:1-12 | God is eternal |
| Sunday | Matthew 25:31-46 | The sheep and the goats |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"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.'" **Matthew 25:23 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, you know our frailty and limitations. Give us faith and courage to act with boldness for the sake of your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

For this food that nourishes us, for the people that support us, and for your goodness that renews us, we give you thanks through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you experience the joy of your God through Christ our Lord.



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NOVEMBER 19, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some thoughts, principles, and beliefs that guide your daily life?
- How does the Christian faith help guide you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus' parables, stories that teach a religious lesson, are powerful. They have a message for us. They get into our heads and make us think. In this reading, is God like the master who is "a harsh man, reaping where [he] did not sow" (v. 24)? Of course not. Parables are not necessarily stories that place God as one character and us as another. Just as the actions of the master lead to a definite action by the slave, so our God leads us to definite action. Followers of Jesus are gifted with valued contributions for the work of God's kingdom. God's grace and mercy blesses people through our actions. So act, not for personal benefit but for the joy of living in the grace of God. Christianity is not meant to be simply a philosophy that we think about but a life we experience with others and with God. It includes a "wise heart" (Psalm 90:12) that gives attention to what matters and what brings kindness and joy to the world.

Discuss: What gifts and opportunities has God given you to care for others and give witness to the love of God in Christ?

Pray: **God of abundance, your judgments are true and full of compassion for all that you create. Give us wise hearts to give you praise and serve our neighbor in love through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others with acts of kindness that reflect the abundant love of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The apostle Paul writes "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Think or talk about ways you can be affirming and encouraging to others. Name one person in particular and write a note to them to tell them a gift you have recognized in them, what you appreciate about them, and give words of encouragement to them. End the note with a blessing: Child of light, may God bless you with faith, hope and love, this day and always. (1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org