

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

5:30 p.m. September 26, 2026

9:00 a.m. September 27, 2026

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

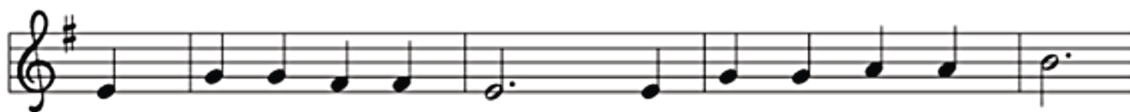
Welcome

Welcome to worship at Zion Lutheran Church. May this time honor God and inspire you.

Worship details: In this bulletin, **bold print** indicates the congregation's responses. **Assisted listening devices**, which are cleaned, disinfected, and have earpads replaced after each service are available in the narthex; ask an usher. **Hospitality details:** **A family restroom** is located in the hallway next to the sanctuary. **If you are visiting today**, please feel free to sign the Guest Registry located in the narthex. We ask that ALL members, regular visitors, and guests **sign the pew pad sheet**, so that we can better get to know each other.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P Compassionate God,

C **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

"God is Here!"

ELW (red book) # 526

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

The assembly is seated

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

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.

R The Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalms 25:1-9 *(read 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 upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

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

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,

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.

R The Word of God, Word of life.

The assembly may stand

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Matthew 21:23-32 *After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

P 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

(9:00) NOISY OFFERING

Gifts received in the Noisy Offering will be split between
ELCA World Hunger and local food pantries

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Hayden

HYMN OF THE DAY

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

ELW (red book) # 883

APOSTLE’S 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 INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. Please respond with: **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.**
We share Christ's peace with one another.

The assembly is seated.

(9:00) INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

P In and through the love of God, we are blessed in so many ways. In this time of offering, we have another opportunity to share our blessings - that they may bless others!

(9:00) MUSICAL OFFERING

The assembly may stand.

OFFERING RESPONSE “In the Singing”

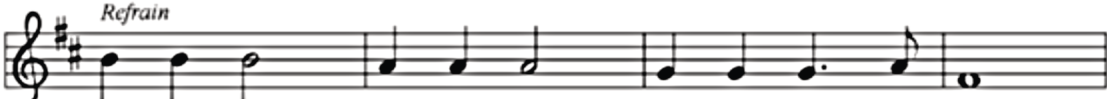


1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,

Refrain



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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OFFERING PRAYER

A God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C **Amen.**

The assembly may stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

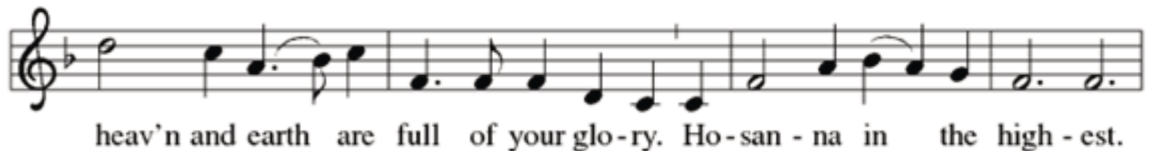
P Lift up your hearts.

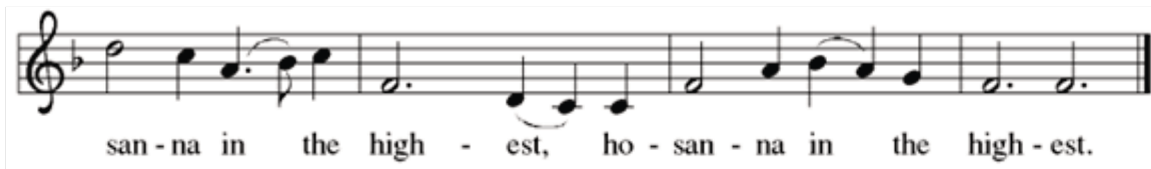
C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





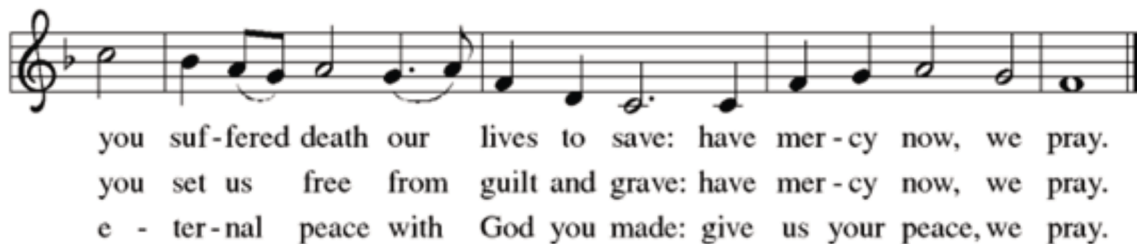
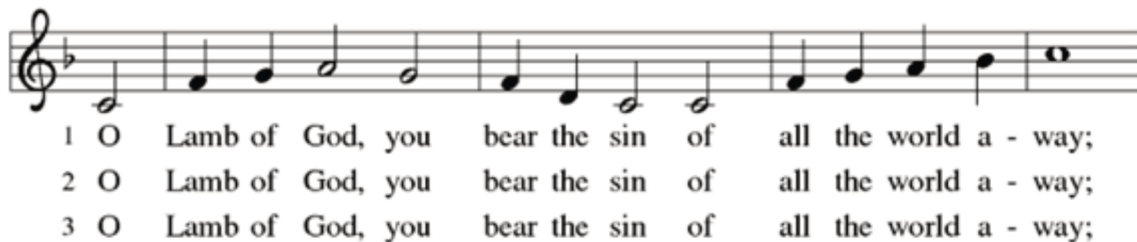
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
The assembly is seated. All who trust that Christ is truly present in the sacrament are welcome to partake of this meal. All are welcome to come forward as the ushers direct you. However, you are also welcome to remain in your pew and the Lord's Supper will be brought to you; simply let the usher know your desire when they come to your pew. Wine, grape juice and gluten-free options are available. The grape juice is the light-colored liquid in the center ring of the trays. Place your empty glass in the receptacle available as you head back to your seat via the side aisle.



COMMUNION MUSIC (5:30) Recording by Peter Mayer
 (9:00) "Let Us Break Bread Together" Guitar Instrumental Tom Bass

The assembly may stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

"God's Work, Our Hands"

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DISMISSAL

P Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Proclaimer:

Musician:

Assisting Minister:

Communion Servers:

Greeters:

5:30 pm

Pastor Barbara Hayden

Donica Vonderohe

Linda Dutchess

Steve & Jane Teney

Helen Steen

9:00 am

Pastor Barbara Hayden

Donica Vonderohe

Marilyn Fee

Jolene Burnett & Jessica Hilgendorf

Jim Richter & Barb Widder

ALTAR FLOWERS this weekend are provided by Lois Jellings in celebration of her 101st birthday.

ZION’S CHILDCARE IS HIRING: Zion’s childcare is currently hiring for a Four-year-old Preschool Assistant and Child Care Assistant. Benefits include: Iowa residents qualify for reduced child care & preschool; IL residents receive half-off childcare and preschool tuition; Holiday pay after 90 days; Personal pay after 1 year; Monthly attendance bonuses available – up to \$600 per year. If you, or someone you know is interested, please send them our way!! The positions will start ASAP!! Please apply at Zion Childcare Preschool, 439 3rd Ave S.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following young people who, on Saturday night, 9/19, acknowledged their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ through the reception of baptism!

- Cooper Matthew Mallinger
- Landan Riley Yaddof-Ketelsen
- Nina Christina May
- Kie Eli Yaddof

Welcome to the family of God!

THE ZION SAUERKRAUT SUPPER was a great success! Thank you to all who helped in so many ways. It was a great day of fellowship with our Zion family.

BULLETIN ISSUES: As of October 1st, the software that has been used to create the bulletins will no longer be available. Amanda has been working to learn new software that will allow her to create the bulletins in the style the congregation is used to. The new software is much more involved than the previous and there are kinks that need to be worked out. Please bear with her as she does her best through this transition period. Most notably will be blurring where there used to be none, especially in music inserted and in the PDF version posted on the website. Thank you for your understanding during the transition.

PRAYER LIST:	LeAnn DePue	Tom & Judy McLaughlin
	Larry Mommesen	Erin Montgomery
	Ernie Varga	Kay Weispfenning
	Doug Witt	

HAPPENING AT ZION THIS WEEK:

Monday, September 28th: 5:30 pm- Girl Scouts
Tuesday, September 29th: 3:15 pm- Centering Prayer
5:30 pm– Boy Scouts
Wednesday, September 30th: 10:00 am– Morning Prayer/Bible Study
5:15 pm– Faith FUNdations & Confirmation
Saturday, October 2nd: 5:30 pm– Worship
Sunday, October 3rd: 9:00 am– Worship

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday, September 19 5:30 attendance	52
Sunday, September 20 9:00 attendance	<u>80</u>
Total Weekend In-Person attendance	132

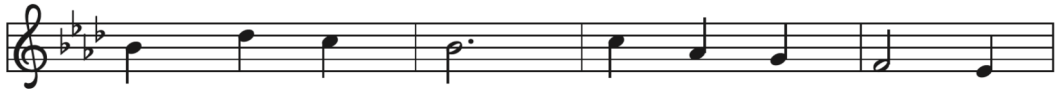
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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PUT GOOD INTO THE WORLD

BLOOD DRIVE



Zion Lutheran Church

Monday, October 12th

3:00pm to 6:00pm

The Gathering Space



To sign up, scan the QR code, contact Deb Vath
at djvath@mchsi.com or visit us online @
www.bloodcenter.org - Group # 2827

Last date to donate elsewhere: 8/17/2026

ZION CHILDCARE PRESCHOOL TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 22, 2026 6-7 PM



Zion staff and church members are invited to take part in our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 22nd from 6-7 pm. Set up time will be 5:30-6 pm. We will block off the childcare/preschool parking lot for participants. Please consider decorating your car and passing out treats to all of the families that go through. Last year, we had about 150 kids come through and 17 decorated vehicles.

It would be great if we could get more vehicles this year! Some vehicles were decorated pretty fancy and some just had a couple of decorations. Anything is welcome!! Feel free to pass out candy and non-candy items!

We will invite all the children and families at the center, church, and Faith Foundations! All are welcome!



**Zion Lutheran Church
439 Third Avenue South
Clinton, IA 52732**

Zion Contact Information

***Rev. Barbara Hayden, Interim Pastor
pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org***



***Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator
officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org***

***Kelly Bork, Child Care Director
zioncc-ps@hotmail.com***



Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

***Church Address
439 3rd Ave S.
Clinton, IA 52732
Phone: 563-242-7391***

***Child Care Address
430 3rd Ave S
Clinton, IA 52732
Phone: 563-243-9393***

Zion's Church directory is located at instantchurchdirectory.com or may be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple Store to be available on your devices.

If you have any questions or need help,
please contact Linda Dutchess at 563-202-4418.

The 9:00 am worship service streamed live on Facebook (www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton)

And will be broadcast on KROS, 1340 AM and 105.9 FM, at 10:30 am.