

“Whoever welcomes
one such child
in my name
welcomes me.”

MARK 9:37, NRSV



18th Sunday of Pentecost
September 22, 2024

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.



GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

COME NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

Verse

Come now is the time to worship
Come now is the time to give your heart
Come just as you are to worship
Come just as you are before your God
Come

Chorus

One day every tongue
Will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains
For those who gladly choose You now

Ending

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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INVOCATION SONG

WE ARE GATHERED HERE

We are gathered here in the name of the Father.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Father,
chosen by God's grace.

We are gathered here in the name of the Son.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Son,
chosen by God's grace.

We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit,
chosen by God's grace.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

O Lord, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you have in store for us today.

Cleanse our minds of all distracting thoughts. Cleanse also the desires of our hearts.

O Lord, you know us through and through. You know our sinfulness.

Father, we confess we have sinned against you, and against other people. We have failed in loving You as we ought. We have also failed to love our neighbors.

Forgive us for our sins of commission-

For those things we did and thought—that we ought not.

Forgive us also for our sins of omission

For our failures in thought, word and deed.

Silence is kept for reflection.

You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them.

So we ask your mercy once again, for the sake of Jesus.

We pray your healing power—that we might delight in your will,

And by our lives bring glory to your name.

Amen.

In His mercy, God gave His Son to die for us and for our sins.

For His sake, God forgives us all our sins.

Therefore, in the name of Christ, and by His authority,

I now declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins.

THEY ARE NO MORE!

Christ has taken them on Himself and removed them.
You are free!
Live in that gracious freedom and be healed in Him.

SONG

KYRIE ELEISON

Chorus:

Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way
Kyrie Eleison ev'ryday

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all,
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,
for life and for love for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)

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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.

SONG

THE JOURNEY OF PRAISE

We are all on a journey
from the cradle to the grave
We are given life through the price
our Savior had to pay

Chorus:

Oh let our hearts praise the Lord

Oh let our hands praise the Lord

Oh let our voices praise the Lord

Oh let our lives praise the Lord

We can feel suffering

there is someone near in need

We are given choice, heart, hands, voice,

they are within our reach (Chorus)

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb

led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”
²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish

ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HELP US O LORD
(Sung twice)

Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.

Open our hearts to feel your word.

Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he

will rise again.”³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Call Us BC #513

1. **Jesus call us in our blindness with a touch that can open up our eyes, reaching out with special kindness, never doubt such a wonderful surprise.**
2. **Jesus calls us thru our neighbors, those who serve though they know not what they do. Reaching out with special favors, helping out like a friend you never knew.**
3. **Jesus call us thru the Spirit with a grace we can never understand. Reaching out to those who hear it, speaking out for a just and righteous land.**

Refrain

In the morning and in the ev'ning, in the darkness and in the light, Jesus call us, gently call us to believe in the living sacrifice.

John Ylvisaker
One License #CT-223

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.**

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

EVERYBODY'S GOT SOMETHING TO OFFER

Chorus:

**Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
in the name of the Lord**

**To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears (Chorus)**

**To the believers gathered here
the message it is true
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do (Chorus)**

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Benediction Song – echo song

(leader in italics; congregation in bold)

L) May the Lord bless and keep us;

C) May the Lord bless and keep us.

L) Make his face to shine upon us;

C) Make his face to shine upon us.

L) May his blessing go with us;

C) May his blessing go with us.

L) and give us peace

C) And – give – us - peace

L) In the name of the Father;

C) In the name of the Father

L) In the name of the Son;

C) In the name of the Son.

L) In the name of the Spirit;

C) In the name of the Spirit

L) All three –in-one;

C) ALL – THREE – IN – ONE!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

| Sunday Offerings >>>>>> | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 9/1/2024 | \$ 2,896.59 | Paypal and other | |
| 9/8/2024 | \$ 1,845.00 | Clattering coins | \$ 67.12 |
| 9/15/2024 | \$ 1,305.70 | | |
| 9/22/2024 | | | |
| 9/29/2024 | | | |
| 2024 Monthly Giving >>>>>> | | | |
| January | \$ 9,076.91 | July | \$ 8,359.61 |
| February | \$15,017.63 | August | \$ 7,079.18 |
| March | \$20,887.37 | September | \$ - |
| April | \$ 7,297.59 | October | \$ - |
| May | \$ 8,782.34 | November | \$ - |
| June | \$11,608.07 | December | \$ - |
| 2024 Weekly Budget | \$ 3,515.00 | 2024 Monthly Budget | \$ 15,234.58 |
| Year to | date | deficit | \$(33,768.00) |



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 Letter on file.



Weekly Announcements

Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers:

Christy Hebeisen, Lowell Tritabaugh, Jenna Dobner, Dilshad and Sonya Perani, Gary Revier, Cindy Hebeisen and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Installation of Sunday School and Confirmation Teachers: Scott Bergs, Cindy Vazquez and Myrna Scharpe

October Newsletter—The deadline for the October Newsletter is Monday, September 23. The newsletter is an opportunity for all boards and committees to update our members.

ZCW—Minnesota Valley Conference-Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering will be on Saturday, October 12 with registration starting at 11:30. The conference will be held here. Please register with Lorraine Mielke.

Church Calendar—Due to increased activity in Zion's facilities, the Council recommends all committees, groups, individuals reserve a time and location for meetings/events with the church secretary who maintains the calendar. Please email, call or stop at church to make reservations and prevent conflicts.

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Unscheduled—Interruptible Hours for the week of September 22
Thursday, September 26—1pm-5pm

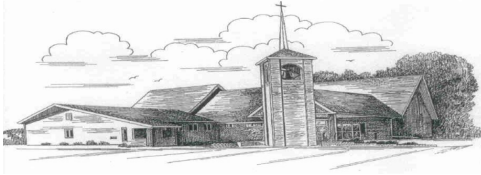
or by appointment

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

Facebook at
Zion Lutheran Church

YouTube at
www.youtube.com
Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN
www.zionarlington.org

Zion Lutheran Church
814 West Brooks St. P.O. Box 371
Arlington, MN 55307
Church: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com
Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Sunday, September 22 | 9:00a 1-3p | Contemporary Worship—Live-stream, in-person Maranatha Church |
| Monday, September 23 | | Newsletter Deadline |
| Wednesday, September 25 | 7:00p | Harvest Dinner Meeting |
| Thursday, September 26 | 10:00a 6-8p | Adult Bible Study Maranatha Church |
| Sunday, September 29 | 9:00a 1-3p | Worship—Live-stream, in-person Maranatha Church |

Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 22

Usher: Diane Wink, Francis Rowe
Sheri & Maya Kumar

Greeter: Mary Lietz

Acolyte: Ashley Schauer

Reader: Jane Scharpe

Organist: Brenda Danielson

AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

Sunday, September 29

Usher: Tim & Stacy Haggemiller
Morgan Haggemiller, Scott Bergs

Greeter: Nancy Mathwig

Acolyte: Aiden Christeson

Reader: Cindy Quast

Organist: Bobette Schauer

AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad