

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

July 6, 2025 + FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

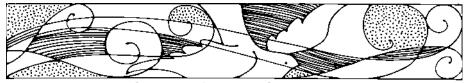
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

"Turn to me and be saved," says the Lord.

"For I am God and there is no other."

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Lord who calls us also sends us. There is work to be done.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have turned deaf ears to those who proclaim your Word, and to those who cry to us in their need.

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.

"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you," the Lord promises. Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake our sins are forgiven. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**





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Opening Litany

The world is consumed by disappointments and bad news, and people who know nothing of Jesus have no hope for the future. Send us out, O Lord, to preach your good news of salvation to all who need to hear it.

The world is plagued by division and discord, and people who know nothing of Jesus have a hard time finding relief from the conflicts in their lives.

Send us out, O Lord, to declare your peace to people in places where harmony has never existed before.

The world is caught in an atmosphere of distrust and disdain. Send us out, O Lord, to tell people about the joy we have because we trust in Christ.

The world is afraid to welcome outsiders or to accept those who are different.

Send us out, O Lord, to share with those who are outcast the message that Jesus came to welcome all people into his kingdom.

The world is a place where people can slip through the cracks or get lost in the shuffle.

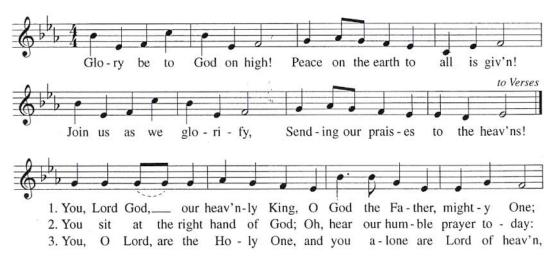
Send us out, O Lord, to assure the followers of Christ that they will never be forgotten because their names are written in the book of heaven forever.

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Family of God





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus,
you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us.
With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey,
that we may spread your peace in all the world,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Fourth of July Litany

O God, you have blessed our land with many gifts. For everything that makes this country great, we give you thanks.

O God, you have blessed us with the freedom to speak, the freedom to worship, and the freedom to travel from place to place. For all the freedoms we enjoy in this country, we give you thanks.

O God, you have blessed us with the right to vote, the right to work, and the right to live where we please.

For all the rights we possess as citizens of this country, we give you thanks.

O God, you have blessed us with the fields of plenty and rivers that flow. For the bounty of this land, we give you thanks.

O God, you have blessed us with peace within our borders and prosperity within our communities.

For the advancement of our nation, we give you thanks.

O God, you have helped us in hard times and given us the strength to persevere as a people. For the courage we have to carry on, we give you thanks.

+ WORD **+**

First Reading Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her —

that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

¹²For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river,

and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;

and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;

you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass;

and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:1-9

Let us read Psalm 66 responsively.

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands: be joyful, all the earth; ²Sing the glory of God's name; sing the glory of God's praise.

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

⁴All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name."

⁵Come now and see the works of God, how awesome are God's deeds toward all people.

⁶God turned the sea into dry land;

so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in God.

⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations; let no rebels exalt themselves.

⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us among the living, and has not allowed our feet to slip.

Second Reading

Galatians 6:1-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

A reading from Galatians.

¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

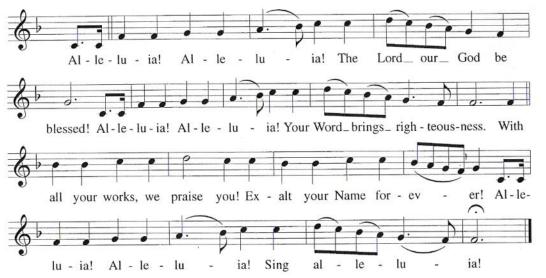
⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised — only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of

our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse Family of God



Holy Gospel

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 10th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one

on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

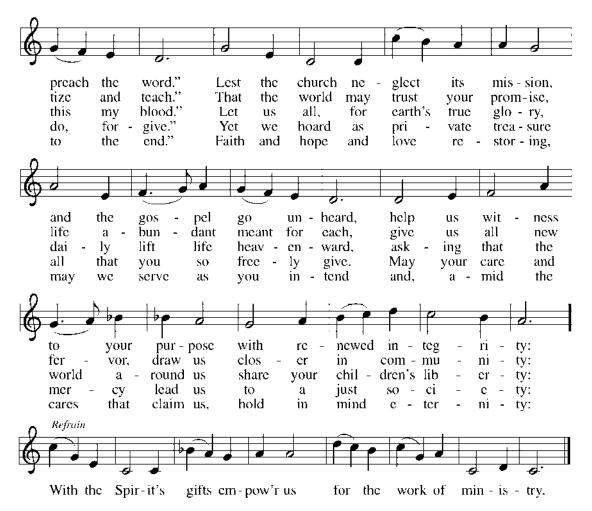
¹⁶"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time Sermon



Hymn continues on next page.



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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

Prayer of Intercession

P Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, hear our prayer.

P All the earth sings out your name.
Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation.
When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing.
When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste.
God of grace, hear our prayer.

A You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right.

Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

P As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain, *especially*... Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Your harvest is plentiful, O God.

Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+ OFFERING +





+ MEAL+

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 our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

Exalted is your name always and everywhere, Lord God, for you created all things.

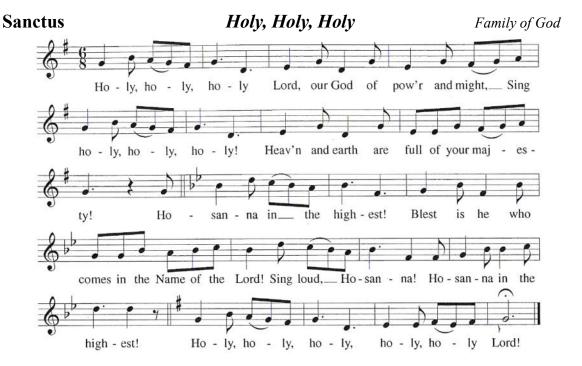
By your grace you wash away our sin and make all things new. When your people crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land, you washed away their bondage and betrayals and gave them a new life with you.

Your prophet Elisha sent Naaman into this same water to wash in humility and be cleansed of his leprosy.

When your Son came to be baptized by John at the Jordan, you brought him up out of the waters

to usher in your new creation, your kingdom.

And so we rejoice with all who are water-washed and Spirit-born, and in the company of those who have crossed over Jordan into the promised land of everlasting life with you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, as we join their unending hymn.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

God of the harvest, you sowed among us the seed of your only Son.

When he died for our salvation, he was buried in the earth and raised on the third day to be the firstfruits of resurrection.

Send down your Holy Spirit upon your church

to go as laborers into your fields,

to reap the bountiful harvest of your kingdom.

Sanctify this bread and cup

that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son; who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Glorious God, you have revealed to us your creative joy in a tapestry of spacious skies, amber waves of grain, purple mountain majesties, and fruited plains.

Shed your grace upon all who call this land home, from those in high places to the least of these.

Have mercy wherever the beauty of the land has been stripped and sold.

Strengthen all who work for the dream of brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Bring us, together with your children from every nation, to the day when we shall enter your heavenly city undimmed by human tears and rejoice in every gain divine, all-holy God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together 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.



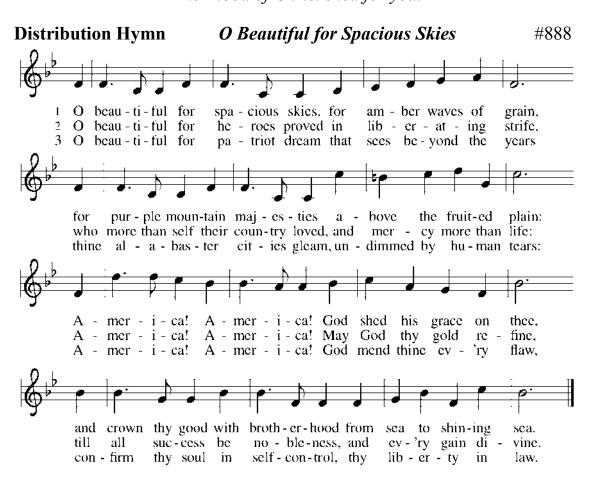


Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.





Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910; Music: North America, 19th cent. Public Domain

Table Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ make you strong to do His will, and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)

Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

+ SENDING +

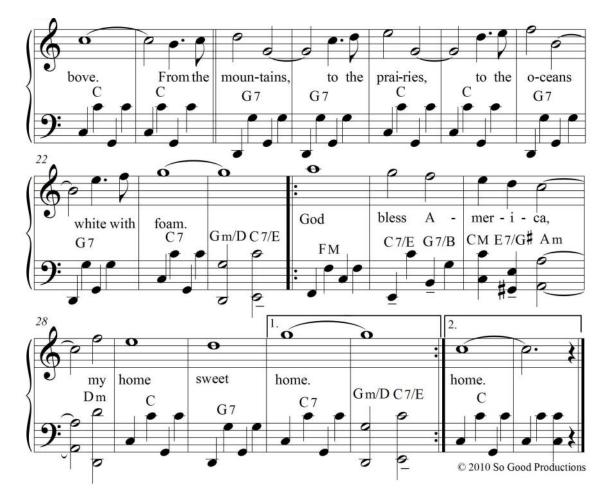
Announcements

Benediction

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, continue to bless you, comfort you, and guide you in your journey of faith. Amen.



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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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Fourth of July

Word Search Puzzle





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