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(Third Graders)

Luke Edwards
Cooper Leetch
Blake Levander
Nora Levander
Baylor Neidhardt
Avery Petersen
Cohen Schnoor
Kyler Stuhr
Aaron Weltruski
Caitlin Winter
Chase Young

(Confirmands) Ella Gompert Malaya Hanaway Bristol Hardwick Colton Juzenas Brooklynn Kelley Kasey Krohn Cale Moser Tinsley Neidhardt Dalton Olnes Alexis Pedro Corbin Rasmussen Kollin Rasmussen Reed Reinhart Hailev Salwei Evelvne Schaefer Peyton Seier Brayden Slaymaker Bentley Stuhr Ava Tisthammer Chance Trollope Tyson Webster

Bible Cross God Faith Grace Hope Joy Know Life Learn Lord Love Nebraska Praise Read Pray Sing Sin Word Zion Lutheran Church



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

September 17, 2023 + Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

+ 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.





The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

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

"As I live," says the Lord,
"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked,

but that the wicked turn from their ways and live."

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

Today we consider forgiveness — how readily we have offered it ourselves, and how much of it we expect from God.

(A moment of silence is kept for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you —
in our thinking, in our speaking, and in our doing.
We put ourselves in the place of God
and pass judgment on one another;
we do not deal in love as you have dealt with us.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us our sins and call us by your Holy Spirit
to the new life you ordained for us,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

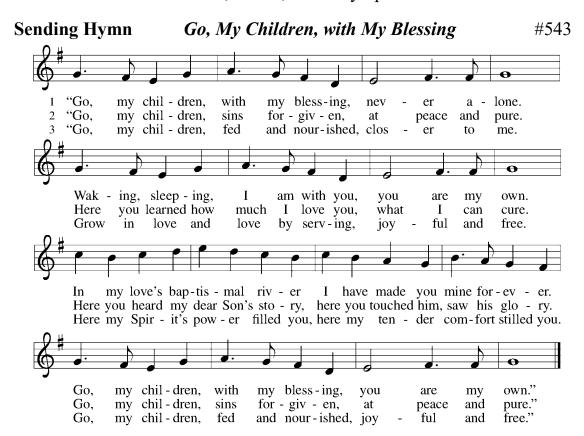
God's will is for our good, that we might be preserved. God gave his son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. By the Holy Spirit we are restored to the family of God. **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful, bless us, keep us, and grant us peace. In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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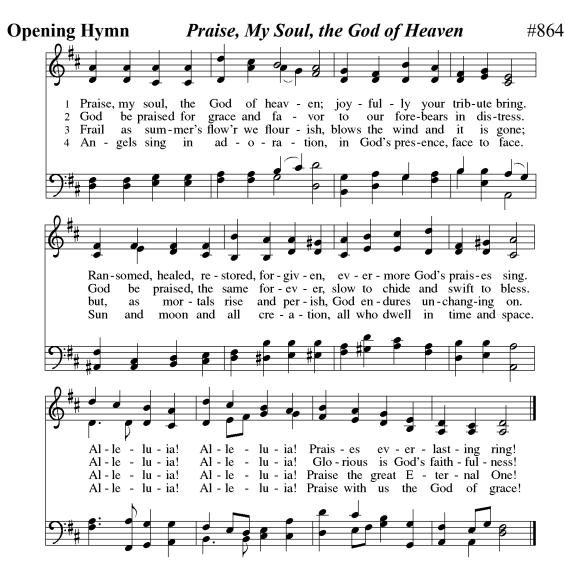
Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946 Music: Spanish traditional Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711706

Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005 Music: John Gross, 1800-1880 Public Domain

Opening Litany

You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Help us, O Lord, to be a forgiving people, imitating you in our thoughts, words, and actions.

In heaven, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Restore to us, O Lord, the joy of forgiveness and redemption in Jesus' name.

Before his ascension, our Savior breathed on his disciples and said, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven."

Remind us always, O Lord, of the great power our words of forgiveness possess.

God proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Daily reveal to us, O Lord, how complete and pure your forgiveness is.

When the people of God bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances they may have against each other, God's love binds them together in perfect unity.

Help us to realize, O Lord, how your forgiveness strengthens and deepens our relationships with one another and with you.

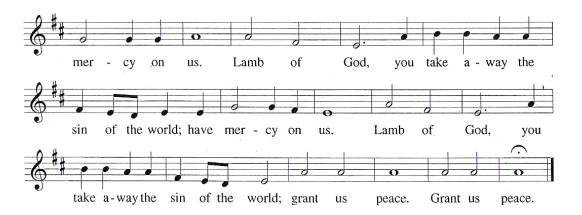
Now may the God of peace, who remembers our sins no more, rule in our hearts and minds forever.

As forgiven and forgiving people, may we embrace the grace we have been given by our God!

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.**



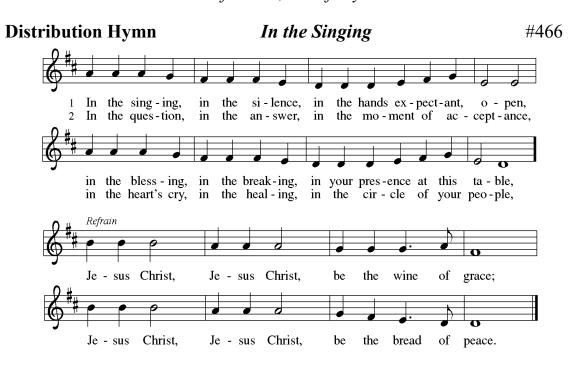


Distribution

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

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931; Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926 Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, IL 60188. Used by permission with CCLI License #11068244

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

God of mercy, shape your church

to embody the forgiveness you make possible in Christ.

Have compassion upon your sons and daughters

who suffer the isolation of shame or disgrace.

Give courage and conviction to any who find it difficult

to forgive a brother or sister from the heart, and

console your children whose pleas for clemency are unheeded.

Bring your kingdom near in every place

where financial debt weighs down nation or household.

Draw us into your eternal life

that heralding your emancipation and proclaiming your liberation together with your people of every age,

we may be bound to you forever in one perfect freedom, everlasting 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.



Lamb of God

Family of God





Prayer of the Day

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

O Lord God, merciful judge,

you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Presentation of Holy Bibles

Brothers and sisters in Christ: today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to bless the Holy Bibles we present to the following young people:

(Please come forward as your name is read.)

Zion's 3rd Graders:

Luke EdwardsCooper LeetchBlake LevanderNora LevanderBaylor NeidhardtAvery PetersenCohen SchnoorKyler StuhrAaron WeltruskiCaitlin Winter

Chase Young

Zion's 8th Grade Confirmation Students: Ella Gompert Bristol Hardwick Colton Juzenas Kasey Krohn Cale Moser Dalton Olnes Alexis Pedro
Reed Reinhart
Chance Trollope

Kollin Rasmussen
Ava Tisthammer
Tyson Webster

Zion's 7th Grade Confirmation Students:
Malaya Hanaway
Tinsley Neidhardt
Hailey Salwei
Peyton Seier
Bentley Stuhr

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

Almighty and loving God, we ask you to bless your Holy Word, and particularly these Holy Bibles, as we present them to your children.

May the wonder and mystery of your Word be revealed to each of them as they use their Bible to study and learn about your amazing love and grace. May your Holy Word be a continual blessing to them throughout their lives. **Amen.**

Presentation Litany

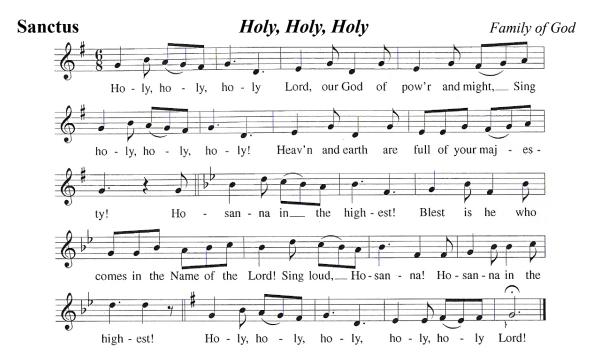
Receive the Word of God. Learn its stories and study its words.

Its stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all.

They tell us who we are.

They tell us that we belong to one another, for we are the people of God.

We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and all of us as you use this Holy Bible at home, in worship, and in your Sunday School, First Communion, and Confirmation classes.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Delivering God, through your Son's dying and rising, you have released us from the debt of sin into the company of the forgiven.

Sanctify us, who share this meal, to be a sign of jubilee hope in your freeing, redeeming, life-giving promise.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup of blessing to be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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."



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+ 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

It is good and joyful to sing your praise, God of Moses and Miriam, for you are majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and glorious in power.

You rejoice in all you have made,

and you have created all things to ring out your joy.

When your children were shackled as Pharaoh's slaves, you heard their cries, divided the waters of the sea, and opened a path to lead them to freedom on dry ground.

When your people were captive to the bondage of sin, you sent you Son, full of your forgiving mercies, to release us and to send us to share with others the grace we have ourselves received.

And so we give you thanks and extol your holy name, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, as we join the unending hymn.

Let us pray. (A brief silence is kept.)
Almighty God,
grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things,
give us joy in doing your will,
and lead us to the building up of your kingdom.
May your Word always be a source of
inspiration, guidance, and strength to those who read it and hear it.
We ask all this through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

May we learn together and grow in our love for God's Word. The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Thanks be to God.

+ WORD +

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place

of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13

Let us read Psalm 103 responsively.

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits — ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west,

so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. A We pray for this congregation.

Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation.

Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment.

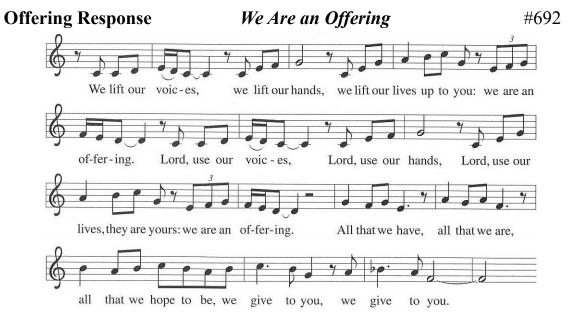
Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.... Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- A We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace

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





born of the virgin Mary, 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, 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

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church.

Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood.

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

- P We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution.
 Enrich the soil for trees and plants.
 Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger.
 Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- A We pray for all who govern.

 Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle.

 Merciful God, receive our prayer.
- P We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, *especially*... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

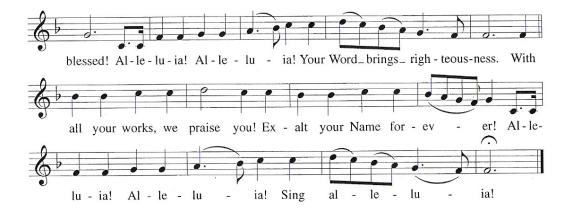
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

Family of God





Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

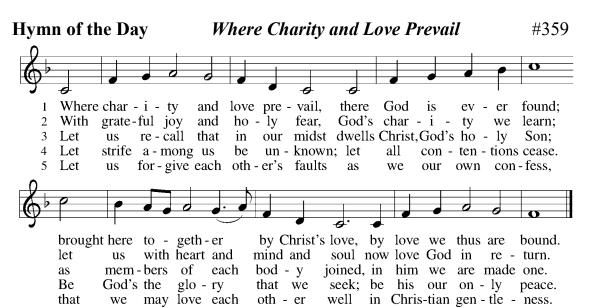
²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his

lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time Sermon



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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, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,