

Third Graders
Oaklyn Dozler
Hazel Henn
Anistyn Koch
Palmer Leetch
Brynn Levander
Emily Nelson
Mavis Skillstad
Allie Stuhr

Angel
Beginning
Birth
Books
Chapter
Cross
Death
Faith
God
Good News
Gospel
Grace
Greek
Grow
Heart
Heaven
Hebrew
Hell
Hope
Holy Bible
Image of God
Jesus
John
Joy
King
Knowledge
Latin
Law
Learn

Life
Lord
Love
Luke
Mark
Matthew

Mercy
Milestone
New Testament
Noah's Ark
Old Testament
Peace

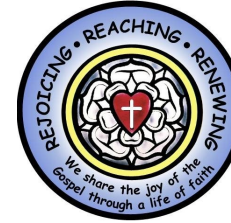
Poetry
Pray
Psalms
Read
Sacred
Saint

Saved
Sinned
Story
Verse
Word
Zion Lutheran Church



Bible Word Search

E	A	G	R	A	C	E	A	H	E	A	V	E	N	O	W
O	F	N	S	A	I	N	T	A	B	O	O	K	S	L	H
T	H	I	R	D	G	R	A	D	E	R	S	E	L	E	T
N	U	N	L	E	I	M	A	G	E	O	F	E	B	V	I
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S	A	B	I	B	L	E	A	K	N	L	L	O	D	R	Y
E	R	V	N	E	W	S	J	E	L	O	L	E	Y	E	S
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O	H	G	T	O	O	E	M	S	R	E	Z	I	N	C	O
J	S	H	T	N	E	C	A	E	P	U	H	E	G	S	W
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Y	R	T	E	O	P	T	P	S	S	O	R	C	U	L	E
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R	R	E	M	L	A	P	S	I	N	N	E	D	O	S	G
O	A	L	N	Y	C	R	E	M	N	O	E	H	O	P	E
T	M	O	N	E	W	T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	K
S	I	V	A	M	E	E	N	O	T	S	E	L	I	M	U
Z	O	E	R	E	T	P	A	H	C	S	A	V	E	D	L



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September 27, 2026 † Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

† **GATHERING** †

Prelude

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

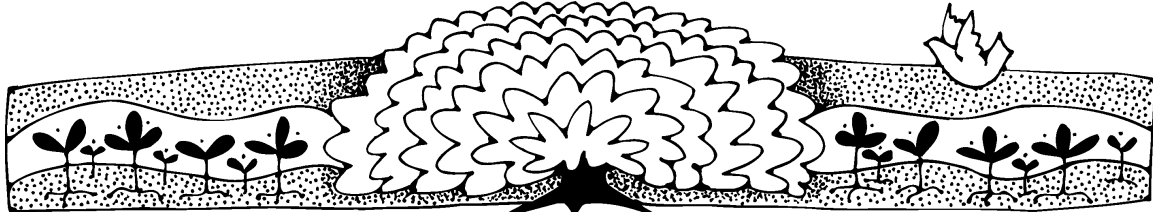
Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of 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.



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The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

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

When we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we recognize the great stakes before us:
sin and death or repentance and life.

(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 been disobedient children
and have refused to recognize our headlong rush toward death.
We need new hearts.**

**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. Amen.**

As God invited Israel to repent and live,
so he offers us the strength to gain the servant attitude of Christ.

Almighty God has given his Son to die for us
and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.

Though we have refused in the past, we are freed to serve in the present.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,

and by his authority, I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.**

✙ 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.**

Sending Hymn

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

#818

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.
 Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898
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Distribution Hymn *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am* #814

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
 set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Text & Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949
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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.)*
 Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,

Opening Hymn *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing* #531

1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the

read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud

and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.

Refrain

Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.
 Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.
 Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.
 The feast is read - y to be - gin;
 the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text & Music: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
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Opening Litany

From the heavenly realms,
our God has complete authority over heaven and earth.
Therefore, he is to be honored and obeyed.

God the Son was made equal with the Father
and was given the same mind.
Therefore, Christ is to be honored and obeyed.

Christ, the Son of the Father, full of grace and truth,
has chosen to dwell in our hearts, souls and minds.
Therefore, that authority of God is now at work within us.

When Christ came to earth,
he spoke with authority to the chief priests and teachers of the law.
**Because Christ dwells within us, we can speak the Gospel
with that same strength and authority of God.**

When Christ came to earth,
he forgave the sins of many in the name of God the Father.
**Because Christ dwells within us, we can forgive one another
with the same compassion and authority of God.**

When Christ came to earth,
he served the needs of the sick, the sorrowful and the dying
with power from on high.
**Because Christ dwells within us,
we can serve one another with the same love and authority of God.**

When Christ came to earth, he was obedient to the will of his Father.
**Because Christ dwells within us,
we are able to follow the will of the Father.**

Praise be God,
who enables us to do what we once were unable to do! Amen.

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.

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

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.

Distribution Hymn

God Is Here!

#526

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of
praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;
what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

Hymn continues on next page.

Send your Spirit of truth into places
where servanthood has turned to exploitation,
service has turned to slavery,
or humility has turned to bonded labor.

Empty your church of all that obscures its witness to the cross of Christ.

Make us ready for that one eternal day
when we shall kneel around your throne,
together with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
in the company of Jesus our Lord,
giving all praise and glory to you,
God our Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

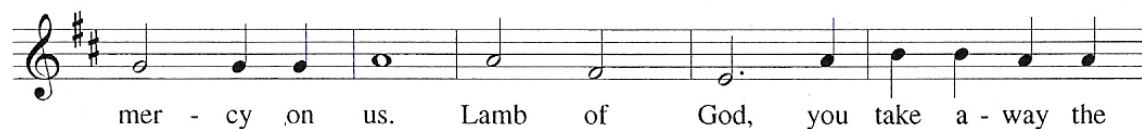
Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

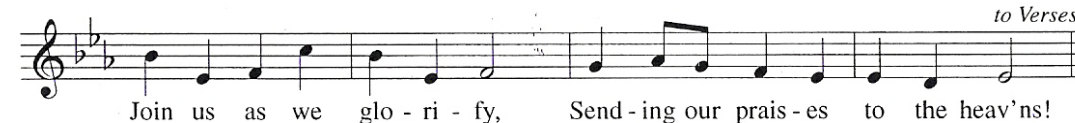
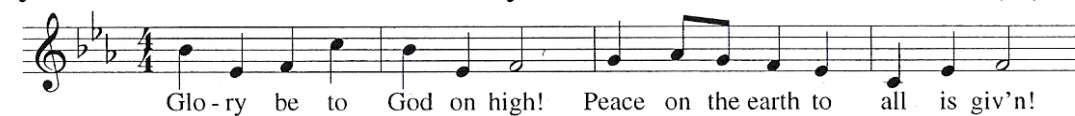
Family of God



Hymn of Praise

Glory Be to God

Family of God



2. You sit at the right hand of God; Oh, hear our hum - ble prayer to - day:

3. You, O Lord, are the Ho - ly One, and you a - lone are Lord of heav'n,



2. Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us— Je - sus, take — our sins a - way. (Ref.)

3. Reign - ing with the Ho - ly Spir - it and the Fa - ther. A - men. (Ref.)

Prayer of the Day

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

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.

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.)

Oaklyn Lynae Dozler
Anistyn Emery Koch
Brynn Lynn Levander
Mavis Kay Skillstad

Hazel Rose Henn
Palmer Sue Leetch
Emilyn Jovee Nelson
Allie Grace 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.

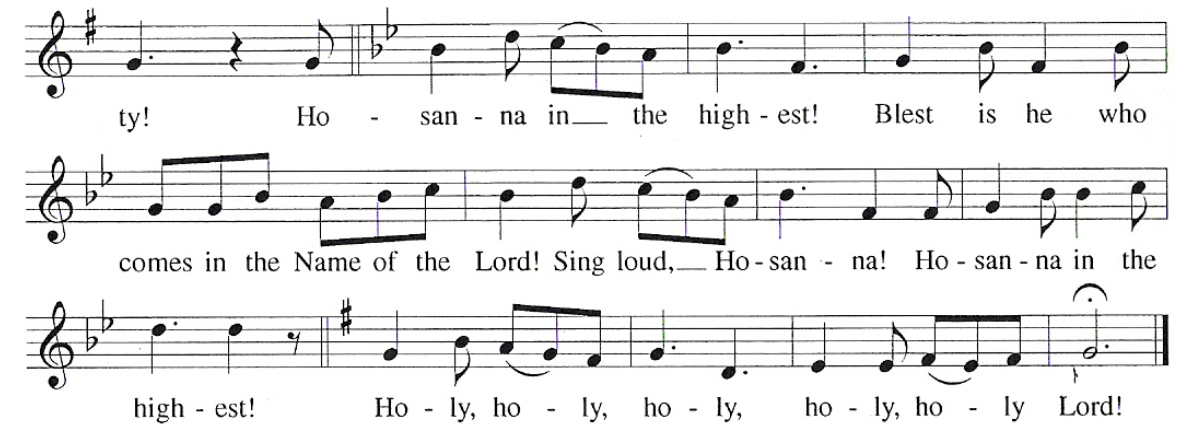
They tell us who we are.
**They tell us that we belong to one another,
for we are the people of God.**

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.**

CP: On behalf of Zion Lutheran Church,
it is my honor to present you with God's Holy Word.
May it be a source of comfort, strength, and guidance
throughout your lives.

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.



Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Communing God, make your joy complete
by uniting those who share this meal
with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

As we remember his saving mercies,
make us to be of the same love, the same heart,
sharing in the same Spirit;
the body and blood of your Son 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.”*

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

God of every consolation, bring your kingdom among your children
who are bowed low under the weight of oppression.

✠ 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

We exalt you, Lord God, for the holy extravagance of your salvation.
Worthy are you to whom we bow,
for in your Son you have knelt before us in humility.
You have looked with favor upon your servant Israel;
you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts
and have lifted up the lowly.

Your Son, though of the same love and same mind as you,
did not regard equality with you as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.
Being born in human likeness, he humbled himself
even unto death on a cross.
You lifted him up in resurrection glory,
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
And so, on bended knee, we confess him as Lord,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
Joining the unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God



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

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.

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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 that shall die.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

Let us read Psalm 25 responsively.

¹To 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.**

³Let 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.**

⁵Lead 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.**

⁷Remember 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.**

⁸You 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.**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the

A Your steadfast love holds all the saints
who have finished their work and are at rest.
As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks.
Hear us, O God. **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.
Amen.

Peace

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

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.

**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 Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love,
we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence is kept.

A Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way.
Help us listen to the cries of those
who have been unfairly hurt by the church
and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P You call us to care for your creation.
Lead us into your promise of a better world
through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably.
Remind them of their call to use their authority
for the sake of the common good.
Give them the gift of humility.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling.
Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness.
Help all those in need, *especially*...
Grant us your salvation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

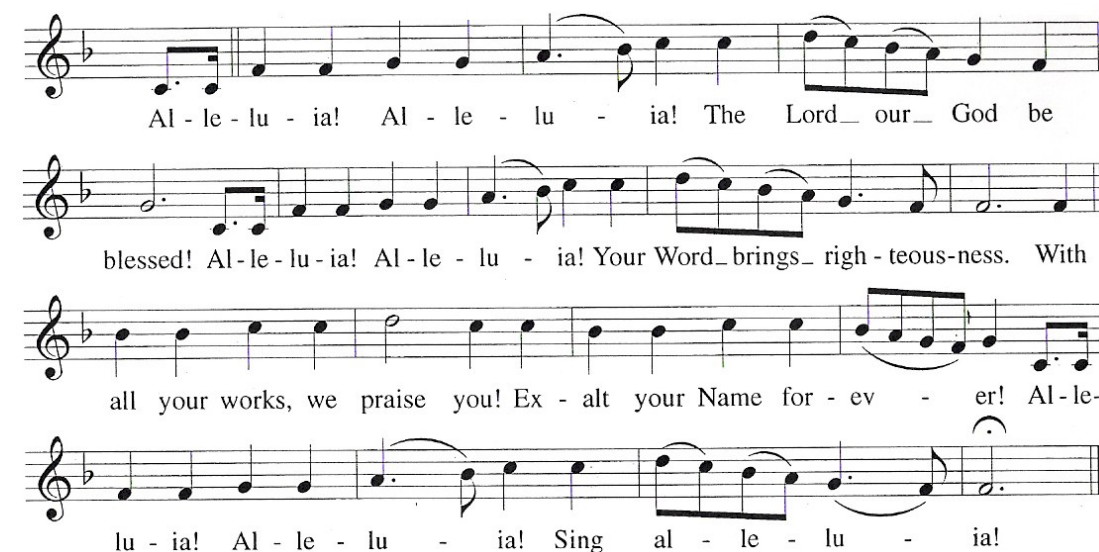
A Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call.
Open us to courageous learning and service in our community,
especially in new or challenging places.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only
in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own
salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous-ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel

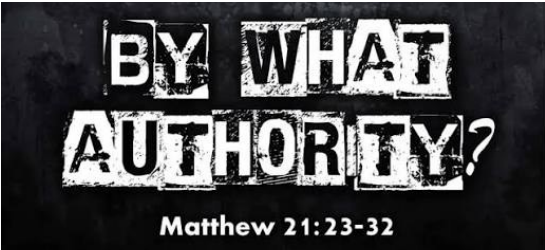
Matthew 21:23-32

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So 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.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Time
Sermon**



Hymn of the Day *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* #517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Public Domain

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,
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.**