Zion Lutheran Church

Mascoutah, Illinois

October 25, 2026

Reformation Day

In the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord, we bid you a warm welcome to this worship service. May your experience of worship and fellowship this morning be spiritually refreshing and ready you for the week ahead.

Pastor: Rev. Joel A. C. Dietrich
Church Secretary: Robin Phillips
Choir Director Team: Josh and Nancy Peterson

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Electronic Devices
As you enter the sanctuary, we invite you to silence and set aside all phones and electronic devices so we can fully focus on worship and the Word together. Thank you for helping maintain a peaceful environment.

A Prayer to Begin Worship
Almighty and gracious God, We give You thanks for the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the faithful proclamation of Your Word. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit to stand firm in Your truth, trust in Christ alone, and boldly confess the faith You have given us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE III WITH COMMUNION LSB p. 184

Confession and Absolution

The Son of God Has Set Us Free from Sin and Death by His Grace
"Wisdom is justified by her deeds" (Matt. 11:19), and the true wisdom of God, Christ Jesus, the incarnate Son, justifies us by His deeds. He prepares His way by the preaching of repentance, but He has suffered the violence of the Law and voluntarily handed Himself over to violent men, in order that we may eat and drink with Him in His Kingdom and "remain in the house forever" (John 8:35). He is "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Matt. 11:18–19), and He has rescued us by His grace from the slavery of sin and death. By the proclamation of His eternal Gospel "to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people" (Rev. 14:6), "the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law" (Rom. 3:21), "that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). And by the hearing of that Gospel of Christ Jesus, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Rom. 3:25), "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

Prelude **Thy Strong Word** **arr. Ben Culli**

Stand and face the cross.

Many Lutheran Churches use a Processional Cross to begin and end festival services. When a Processional Cross is carried in to lead a procession, the congregation stands.

Hymn **Thy Strong Word** *LSB 578*
(Congregation sings stanzas 1, 3, 5, & 6; Choir sings stanzas 2 & 4)

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Choir only
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Choir only
4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

△6 God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

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The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession with Absolution

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

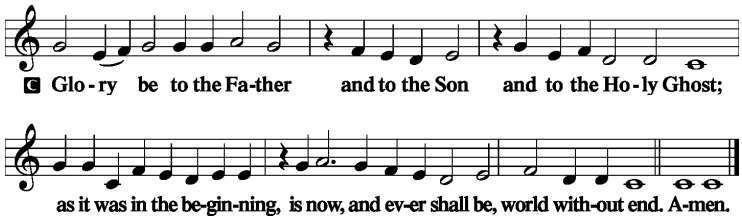
Introit

Psalm 34:1–2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46

P I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
C **and shall not be put to shame.**
P I will bless the LORD at all times;
C **His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**
P My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
C **let the humble hear and be glad.**
P Come, O children, listen to me;
C **I will teach you the fear of the LORD.**
P The LORD redeems the life of His servants;
C **none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

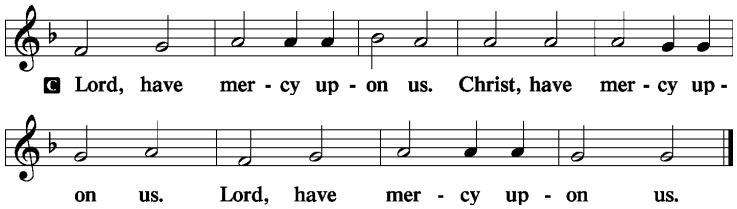
℗ I will speak of Your testimonies before kings, [O Lord,]
℃ and shall not be put to shame.

Gloria Patri



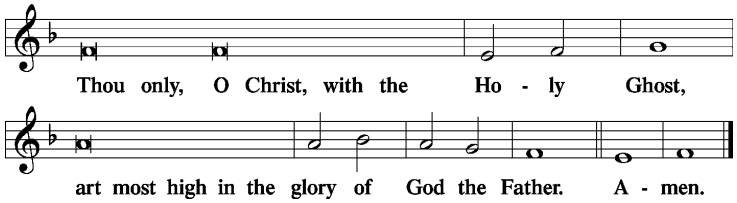
Kyrie

LSB 186



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with Thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir — God is Our Refuge and Strength — Alan Pote

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

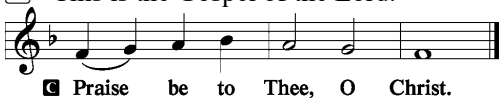
Holy Gospel *John 8:31-36*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered Him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the Son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *LSB 656*

1 A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

2 With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife, Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Rev. Bruce Keseman

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Loving Father, though we deserve Your righteous wrath and punishment, for the sake of Your Son do not remember our sins, but defend us from all harm and danger of body and soul and be our very present help in time of need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You have renewed Your Church in every age with the voices of those who recall Your people to the Gospel and who speak Your Word in all circumstances. Receive our thanks for Martin Luther and those who contended for the Gospel against many and great enemies. Make us bold, that we would also contend for the faith against those who would silence our voices or distract Your people from the one true Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name throughout the world, that Your people's faith may be strengthened and Your kingdom extended. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, make us truly Your disciples. Keep us in Your Word, free us from all errors, and make our homes and families peaceful. Preserve all fathers and encourage them for their godly task, that children would be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, do not let Your people fear though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. Rescue all people in need, and comfort them with the promise that You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, You have given us the certainty of sins forgiven in Your Son, set forth as the propitiation by His blood to be received by faith. So lead us to eat and drink Your holy body and precious blood in repentance and faith, now and always. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In Our Prayers this Week:

Grant Ahner, Troy Gryga, Joyce Trout, and Helen Sauerhage, as they celebrate their Baptismal Anniversaries this week.
Zion's President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
Faithfulness in Christian Worship.
Others who have requested our prayers:

Preserve Your Church, O Lord, and each of us as members of Christ's Body, that we may not surrender the true Gospel for any reason, but be kept in this faith and fear throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until that day when we and all Your people shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the reward You have prepared for us and all who have loved His appearing; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sit

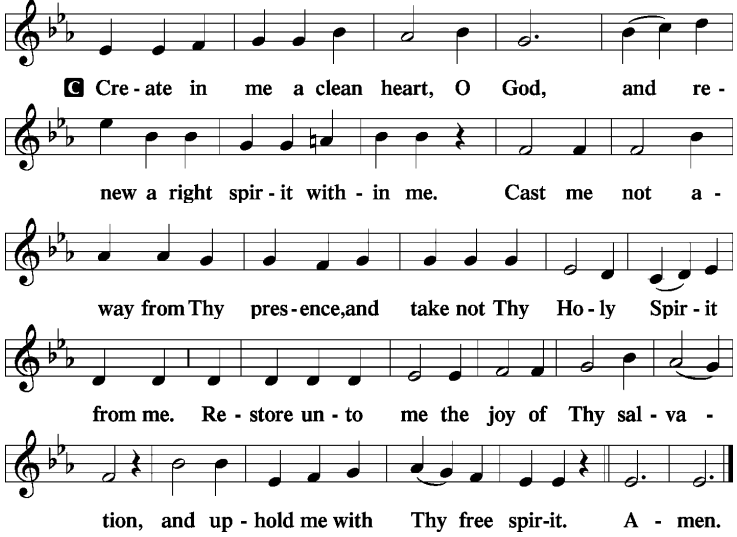
Offering

[Please fill out a sheet in the attendance book. Visitors, please include your address. If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please write it at the top of the sheet.]

Special Offering Music **There Is a Balm in Gilead** **arr. Lloyd Larson**

Stand

Offertory *LSB 192*



Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 194*

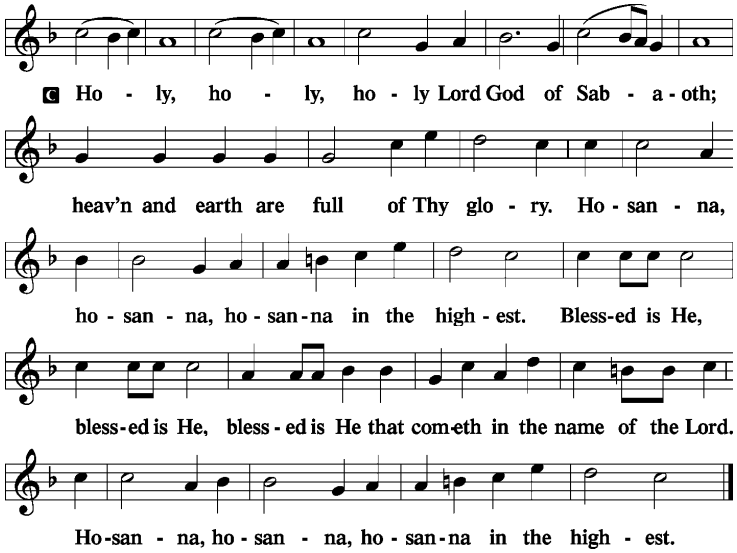
Proper Preface (Full)

℗ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting

life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

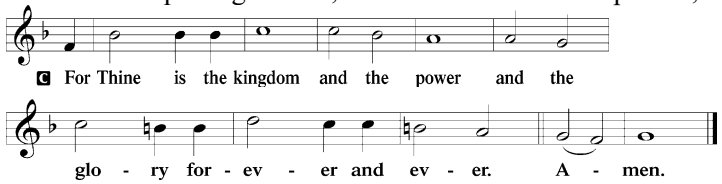


Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

P 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

C



The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

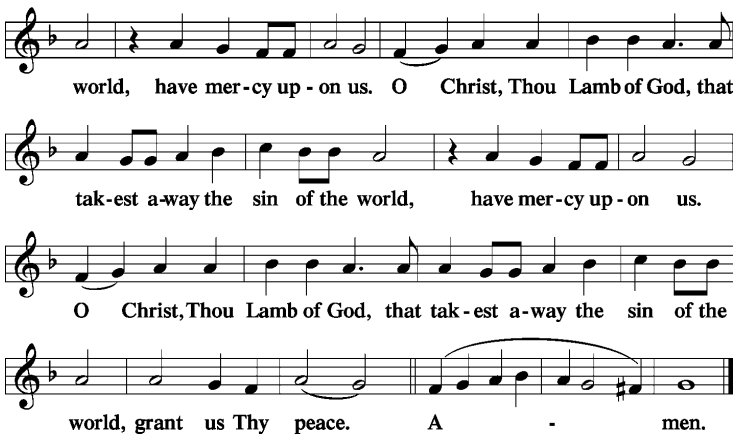
P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



Sit

Distribution

In Holy communion, not only does Jesus give us forgiveness, He also gives us the promise that as we receive His gift, we are proclaiming His death. That is our lifelong duty and delight! As doctrinal oneness is central to this common proclamation, the churches of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion. For this reason, we ask guests who desire to commune to kindly speak with the pastor before service.

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

> Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. **Amen.**
>
> Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**

Hymn — Your Table I Approach — *LSB 628*

1 Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

2 Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

4 Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

Text: Public domain

Hymn — God's Word Is Our Great Heritage — *LSB 582*

1 God's Word is our great heritage And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, We keep its teachings pure Throughout all generations.

Text: Public domain

Hymn — Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice — *LSB 556*

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won. What price our ransom cost Him!

2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell; My life became a living hell, So firmly sin possessed me.

3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left only death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suffered.

4 But God had seen my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great, He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart; He did not choose the easy part But gave His dearest treasure.

5 God said to His belovèd Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they May live with You forever."

6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the devil captive.

7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain; The foe shall not divide us.

8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin, And you are blest forever.

9 "Now to My Father I depart, From earth to heav'n ascending,
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, The Holy Spirit sending;
In trouble He will comfort you And teach you always to be true And into truth shall guide you.

10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching;
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.
But watch lest foes with base alloy The heav'nly treasure should destroy; This final word I leave you."

Text: Public domain

Stand

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

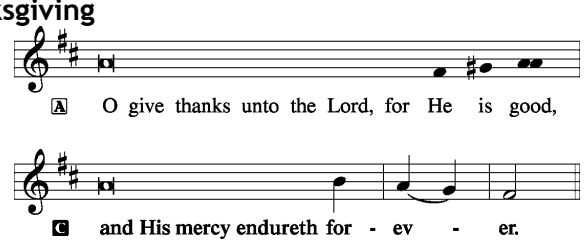
C **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Thanksgiving

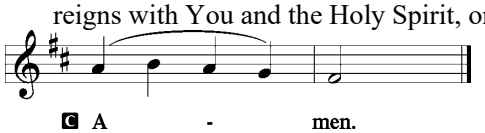
LSB 200



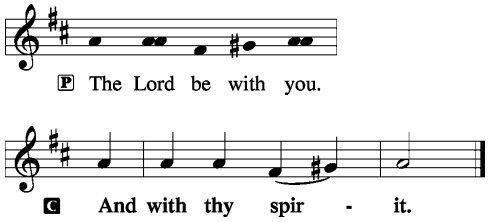
Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

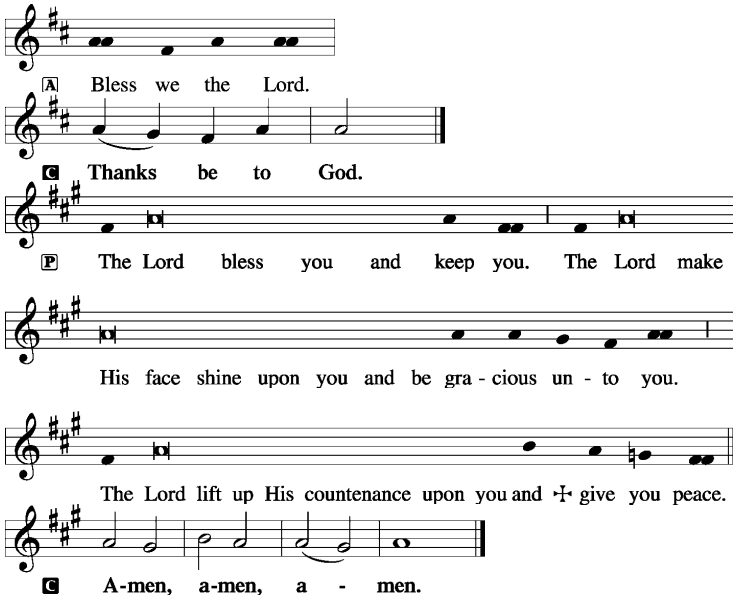
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation *LSB 201*



Benedicamus & Benediction *LSB 202*



Remain standing and face the cross.

When a service begins with a procession led by a Processional Cross, it will usually end with a recessional also led by the Processional Cross. Again, the congregation stands for the recessional.

Hymn — Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness *LSB 849*

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

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Postlude

Acknowledgments
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LIFE AND LIVING ITEMS AT ZION

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

OFFERING USHERS

Please review the schedule below. If you're unable to serve on your assigned date, kindly let one of the Elders know as soon as possible. Thank you for your faithful service!

- **Today Tony Lara, Tom Sax, Ruth Rincker, & Linda Hoskins**
- Nov 1 Mike & Angie Twenhafel, Trent & Sharon Morris
- Nov 8 Amanda Taylor, Katie Crismon, Rhea Sax, & Lindsay Murphy
- Nov 15 Scott & Ellie Spicer, Ken & Gail Frey
- Nov 22 Jeff & Bessie Fick, Torri & Alicia Suedmeyer
- Nov 29 Dustin, Anna, & Chloe Pannier, Waylon Neumann

PASTOR DIETRICH OUT OF TOWN

Pastor Dietrich and his wife, Alicia, will be away celebrating their second honeymoon from October 21 through November 1. During Pastor's absence, Confirmation students are asked to keep up with their assigned lessons, and Adult Bible Classes will be led by Joe Bloomquist. On Sunday, October 25 (Reformation Day Observed), the Divine Service will be led by Rev. Bruce Keseman. On Sunday, November 1 (All Saints' Day), we will welcome back Zion's former pastor, Rev. Glen Thomas, who will lead the Divine Service. Please keep Pastor Dietrich and Alicia in your prayers as they travel, asking the Lord to grant them safe journeys, rest, and a joyful time together. We also ask that you keep Pastor Keseman and Pastor Thomas in your prayers as they faithfully proclaim God's Word and administer His gifts to our congregation during Pastor's absence.

WELCOME TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Zion's Elders have decided to reestablish our Welcome Team program! We invite members of the congregation to sign up to serve as a Sunday morning greeter. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex, where you can choose a Sunday that works best for you. Greeters are asked to arrive no later than 9:45 AM to warmly welcome members and visitors and distribute bulletins as they arrive. Thank you for helping Zion continue to be a welcoming and friendly place for all who come to worship with us!

THANK YOU FROM ZION PRESCHOOL

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Fall Butter Braid Fundraiser this month! Our fundraiser raised over $3500! These funds are a part of our regular operating budget. They will also help offset the cost of new window coverings in one of our classrooms.

VETERANS DAY DISPLAY

In honor of Veterans Day, we will be creating a special display at church to recognize those who have served our country. All are invited to contribute military memorabilia from their own service or that of current or past family members who have served. Items may include photographs, medals, certificates, uniforms, hats, or other meaningful keepsakes. Please place smaller items in the designated box in the narthex and larger items in the coat closet. Be sure to clearly label all items with your name so they can be returned to their rightful owners. All items should be submitted by November 4th. Thank you for helping us honor our veterans and their service!

LADIES, ATTEND OUR FALL RETREAT AND LEARN HOW TO SUPPORT CRISIS MANAGEMENT TO FIGHT AGAINST SEX TRAFFICKING

Saturday, November 14th, Zion Belleville is hosting the LWML fall retreat which will feature an organization called Monarch Jewelry, which collects old jewelry and creates new. (You are welcome to bring old jewelry to donate!) They partner with Crisis Aid to help sex trafficked people survive. Registration starts at 8:30. There will be a brief speech about these efforts and then you will have an opportunity to shop if you wish. The event will end with lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Indicate if you wish to carpool. Please RSVP by Nov.5th.

SATURDAY FAMILY MOVIE – NOV 7th

The Men's Club Family Movie series continues on Saturday, November 7th, with *Babe: Pig in the City.* A few weeks following Babe's success at the sheepdog trials, Farmer Arthur Hoggett is injured in an accident, leaving his wife, Esme, to tend the farm alone. Threatened with eviction unless their mortgage is paid, Babe and Mrs. Hoggett venture to a bustling metropolis where they face challenges finding shelter, encounter a colorful community of animals, and strive to raise money to save their farm. Join us in the church basement at 2:30 p.m. for a free movie, soda and snacks.

ZION CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Let's let others in our community know what God is doing at Zion Lutheran Church! Let's take the opportunity to invite them to "Come Home for Christmas" back to God's house. We need individuals to help with the Christmas float otherwise we will not be able to have a float in the Christmas Parade in December. Please sign-up in the narthex to serve on the Christmas float committee, or contact Bessie Fick at 515-230-9937 or Bessie.Fick@yahoo.com

YOUTH GROUP PUZZLE RACE FUNDRAISER - MANY WAYS TO HELP!

The Youth Group will be holding our annual puzzle race fundraiser on Saturday, November 14th (see attached flyer in church bulletin). There are many ways you can help make this event a success! First, we are seeking monetary donations to cover at least some of the cost of the following items: purchasing the puzzles, mini bags of chips to sell at the event, soda and water to sell at the event, Amazon gift cards to use for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, attendance prizes (monetary donations or donation of items are both appreciated). Please see Lindsay Murphy, Katie Crismon, or another youth member or parent if you would like to make a donation. Second, we would love for members to get a table together and attend the event - think of other members, or friends/family/coworkers you might be able to ask to join you (teams play in tables of up to 4 people) - you can sign a whole team up using the QR code on the Puzzle Race flyer or via the sign-up sheet in the narthex OR you can sign up individually through the sign-up sheet in the narthex (if you would like us to help you create a team). One last way you can help is by spreading the word! There is a flyer in the bulletin as well as on our church Facebook page - consider sharing by texting the flyer to friends/family/coworkers who may be interested, share on your personal social media page/s and local pages, or share through word of mouth. Any help is much appreciated!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

THE FINAL COLLECTION PUSH! Every shoebox is more than a gift. It is an opportunity to show a child around the world that they are loved, remembered, and not forgotten. Through Operation Christmas Child, children receive a simple shoebox filled with gifts that can bring smiles, hope, and joy. For many children, the shoebox also opens the door to hearing about Jesus Christ and the Good News of God's love. Your shoebox may travel farther than you ever imagined and become part of a moment that a child remembers for years to come. What may seem like a small box to us can mean so much to a child who has very little. OUR COLLECTION DEADLINE: National Collection Week is November 16–23, 2026. At this time locations have not been announced. Because of my schedule, I need to have all shoeboxes collected by Monday, November 9. This will allow me time to organize and prepare all of our boxes before National Collection Week. SHIPPING DONATIONS ARE NEEDED: Please remember that $10 is needed for shipping each shoebox. If you are donating a shoebox, please consider including the $10 shipping donation with your box. IMPORTANT: Any shoeboxes donated after Monday, November 9 will be held over and included in next year's collection. THANK

YOU! Thank you to everyone who has already packed a box, donated supplies, given financially, prayed, or helped spread the word. Together, we can help put a smile on a child's face, give them something tangible to hold onto, and help bring the message of Jesus Christ to children around the world. Questions? Please contact: Konya at 618-954-9483. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will return your call. Pack a box. Give hope. Share God's love. Operation Christmas Child

76th ANNUAL SAUSAGE SUPPER – TODAY

Please join us for our 76th Annual Sausage Supper today, October 25th from Noon – 5 PM at Trinity Lutheran Parish Hall, 219 McGaughey St., Worden, IL. Carry-out style, $15. Self-serve dining area available. Link, liver, and blood sausage will be sold at the Parish Hall on Sunday beginning at noon.

68th ANNUAL WURSTMARKT

The Ferrin Men's Club is holding their 68th Annual Wurstmarkt next Sunday, November 1st, from 12 PM to 5 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ferrin, IL. They will also have sausage for sale. Dinners are $15 and will be served via curbside pickup only. Please follow road signs for pickup.

ST JOHN'S UCC BEEF & NOODLE DINNER

St. John's UCC is having an "all you can eat" beef and noodle dinner on Friday, November 6th. Lunch will be served from 11 AM – 1 PM and dinner from 5 – 7 PM at 55 W. Church St., Mascoutah. Adults are $16, children 6-12 are $5, and children under 6 are free. For carry-outs call 618-566-7311. Benefits go to the Senior Center.

FREE GRIEFSHARE EVENT

"Surviving the Holidays," a special free GriefShare event for those in area communities who are grieving the loss of loved ones, will take place at Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, on Sunday, November 8, 2026, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Adults and teens are invited to hear a presentation about resources, strategies and tools for coping with grief during the holiday season. The presentation will focus on how to cope with grief, what to be aware of as the holidays are approaching, and how to find hope in the midst of loss from a Christian viewpoint. Those attending will discover helpful resources about grief and the grief process and will also have opportunities to ask questions. For more information, call the church office at 618-377-8314. Go to https://find.griefshare.org/events/304569 to find more details and register for the event. Registration is not required. Zion Lutheran Church is located at 625 Church Dr., Bethalto, Illinois.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Free Thanksgiving dinner prepared by St John UCC and community volunteers on Thursday, November 26th. Meals will be delivered to those who sign up. We are offering a meal to those who receive Meals on Wheels, food pantry patrons, senior center participants, and any others in the community who would benefit. If you would like to receive a free meal, contact David Backus at 618-741-4099 or Patty Backus at 618-558-8237.

LCMS FOUNDATION

Including a statement of your Christian faith is important in your estate plans. Creating that statement of faith is something we do in community. The goal of writing a Christian statement in your estate plans is not to be novel, but to offer a gift, confidence in Jesus, in His forgiveness and resurrection power, offering that gift to those close to you. It is more valuable, by far, than all the financial things you can direct through your estate. Who are the people you want to receive this blessing from you? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Scott Radden @ 618-977-4049 or scott.radden@lfnd.org.

LISTEN TO WORLDWIDE KFUO AM850

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO AM850 & kfuo.org: Tune in for "There Is a Redeemer", our study of the book of Job on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.)! On Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.), we're wrapping up our study of Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Follow along as we pick up with 2 Corinthians 11. On Concord Matters (10/31 at 10 a.m.), Pastor Finnern and Rev. Dennis McFadden will be discussing Article 4 of the Epitome of the Formula of Concord, on good works. Where do our good works originate? Find your favorite programs on demand by visiting kfuo.org!

21ST ANNUAL
ZION YOUTH GROUP
PUZZLE RACE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 14th
5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Race starts at 6:00 p.m.

Scan for event details
and to register

THE FLOWERS ON THE LORD'S ALTAR

The flowers on the Lord's altar are given to the glory of God by Pinky Ahner, in grateful remembrance and loving honor of her daughter, Joye Ahner Kansal, on her birthday.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Proclaimer:	Rev. Bruce Keseman
Lector:	Sem. Derek Arrington
Organist:	Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech:	Ryan Hinton
Offering Ushers:	Tony Lara, Tom Sax, Ruth Rincker, & Linda Hoskins
Acolytes:	Callan Crismon, Kyrielle Corey, & Luke Dietrich (crucifer)
Altar Guild:	Candy Andres & Joyce Hendrix
Elder of the Month:	Dale Wehmeyer

THOSE WHO SERVE NEXT WEEK, NOVEMBER 1

Proclaimer:	Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas
Lector:	Sem. Derek Arrington
Organist:	Nancy Peterson
Sound Tech:	Cohen Bales
Offering Ushers:	Mike & Angie Twenhafel, Trent & Sharon Morris
Acolytes:	Viktor Hatcher, Isaiah Follett, & Grace Wambold (crucifer)
Elder of the Month:	Tony Lara

THINGS WE ARE DOING AT ZION

Sun.	Reformation Day	
	Confirmation Class	8:45 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship DS III w/communion	10:00 AM
Mon.	LifeLight	7:00 PM
Wed.	Confirmation Class	6:00 PM
	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Hand Chimes	8:00 PM
Fri.	Church Office Closed	
	Preschool PMO	9:00 – 11:30 AM
	Senior Meal Delivery	10:30 AM
Sun.	All Saints' Day	
	Confirmation Class	8:45 AM
	Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Sunday School & Youth Bible Class	8:45 AM
	Worship DS I w/communion	10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE OCTOBER 18: Sunday: 125