



**The Church Forgives
as God Forgives**

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

17th Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 2023

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

WORSHIP FOCUS: God's undeserved love empowers us to forgive those who sin against us.

LITURGY: Service of Morning Praise

CW pg. 45

OPENING HYMN: *CW 238*

"Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul"

WORSHIP AND PRAISE

238

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let
2 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor
3 'Tis he for - gives my sins; 'Tis
4 He fills the poor with good; He
5 His won - drous works and ways He



all with - in me join And aid my tongue to
let his mer - cies lie For - got - ten in un -
he re - lieves my pain; 'Tis he that heals my
gives the suf - f'ers rest; The Lord has judg - ments
made by Mo - ses known, But sent the world his



bless his name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die.
sick - ness - es And makes me young a - gain.
for the proud And jus - tice for th' op - pressed.
truth and grace By his be - lov - ed Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.

Tune: ST. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731-76.



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



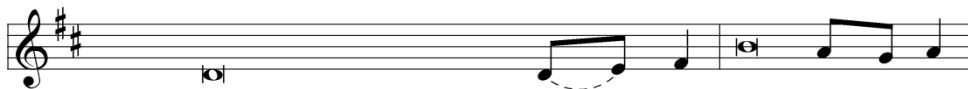
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

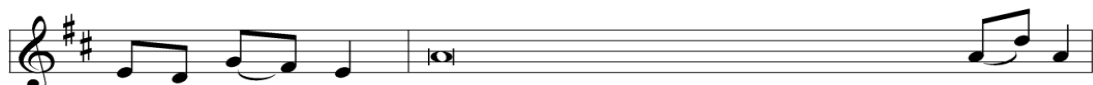


M: (Advent) Behold the _____ King comes: let us wor - ship him.
(Christmas) Unto us the _____ Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.
(Epiphany) The glory of Christ _____ is re - vealed: let us wor - ship him.
(Lent) Behold the _____ Lamb of God: let us wor - ship him.
(Easter) The Lord is _____ ris - en: let us wor - ship him.
(Pentecost) The Spirit of the Lord _____ fills the world: let us wor - ship him.
(General) Praise be to God, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy _____ Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.

BE SEATED



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



THE WORD

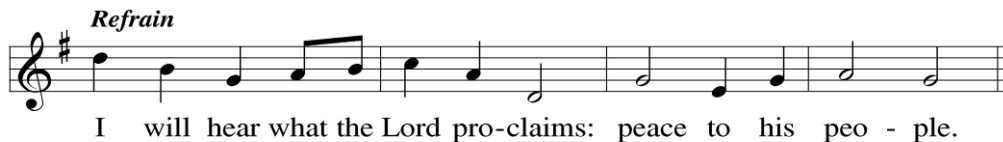
FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷ 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way. (EHV)

PSALM 103

CW pg. 105

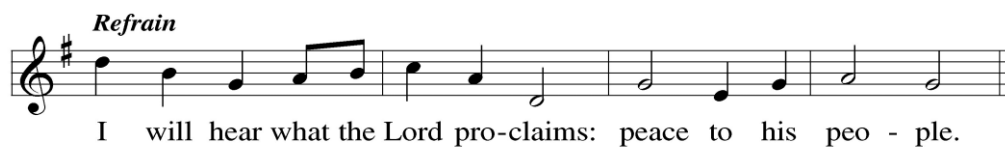


Praise the LORD, O my soul;*
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain



The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve*
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*
so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his children,*
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,*
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD's love is with those who fear him*
from everlasting to everlasting.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³² Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us. ⁵ Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ² And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (EHV)

HYMN: *CW* 493

“Forgive Our sins as We Forgive”

CHRISTIAN LOVE

493 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And

taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

Sermon Text and Theme:

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten

thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt. ²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed. ³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place. ³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.” (EHV)

The Church Forgives as God Forgives

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

TRUST

760

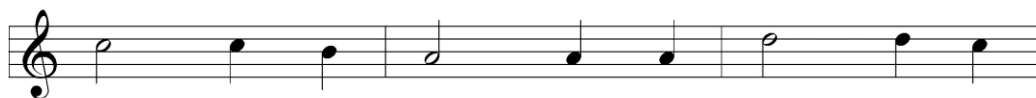
When Peace Like a River



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my
 2 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
 3 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be



way, When sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— What -
 thought— My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is
 sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The



ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
 nailed to the cross, and I bear it no
 trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 scend; E - ven so, it is well with my soul.



Refrain It is well with my
 It is well with my soul.



soul.
 It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE (11 8 11 9 and Refrain) Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876



Officiants

Accompanist: Kayla Liechty

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

CALL MEETING—Pastor Stephen Meyer has decided to return the call to Zion. The next call meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th at 12:30 p.m.

OVER ABUNDANCE TABLE: In the west foyer is a table for anyone who has extra vegetables from their gardens and doesn't know what to do with the extra items. Everyone is welcome to add or take from the table. Please enjoy the bounties of the harvest.

MUM SALE: The Zion Christian Education Association Mums will be available for pick-up at Zion on **Tuesday, September 26**. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Freiny.

Save the Date: Zion's Chili and Soup Cook-Off on October 14th at 4:30 p.m. sponsored by the Board of Service and Fellowship. This is for participants who want to share their best Chili or Soup for judging. Or bring your appetite and judge the entries - - \$5.00 admission per person. **Add this date to your calendars for some good eats and lots of fun!**

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP:

Greetings Members of Zion!

Through the first half of 2023 Zion has experienced a financial shortfall of \$74,426.71 This shortfall is considerably higher than the shortfall last year at this time (halfway through 2022) which was \$21,255.58. Zion has two distinct types of funds. The first is "Unrestricted" and is for general use, payroll, budgetary items, etc. The other is "Restricted". These funds are for a specific use. The capital campaign is a good example of a "Restricted Fund". Please see the box below for more detailed information.

Balance Sheet	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023	6/30/2023
Unrestricted	\$265,513.32	\$283,401.72	\$280,808.72	\$233,286.12	\$209,382.01
Restricted	\$334,979.50	\$342,242.45	\$412,263.99	\$407,650.47	\$393,229.72

As you can see, the amount of Unrestricted funds continues to decrease as those funds are used for general operating expenses. The increase in restricted funds is mainly due to donations to the capital campaign and at the July 30, 2023 Voter's meeting the Voters approved up to \$123,750 for a major bathroom remodel of the bathrooms across from Pastors' offices. The Capital Campaign will remain ongoing for other needed renovations. Thank you for your continued support Zion!

Thank you,

Board of Stewardship

Coming up at Zion

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
 Mums will be delivered and ready for pick up

Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)

Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, and Adult Bible Class

September Volunteers

	Aug. 30 & Sept. 3	Sept. 6 & 10	Sept. 13 & 17	Sept. 20 & 24	Sept. 27 & Oct. 1
Altar Guild		Carol Eshelman &	Kathy Wozniak		
Live Stream Helpers	Miller Sordahl	Steve Sordahl	Erich Freiny	Rob Krueger	Ryan Roth
Ushers	<u>Aug. 30</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier <u>Sept. 3</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson	<u>Sept. 6</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matt Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson <u>Sept. 10</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner	<u>Sept. 13</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergan Koenig Matt McCormick Zach Turner <u>Sept. 17</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale	<u>Sept. 20</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling Russ Vitale <u>Sept. 24</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux	<u>Sept. 27</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Ralph Naveaux <u>Oct. 1</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier
Communion Helpers	<u>Aug. 30</u> Alan Bober <u>Sept. 3</u> Rob Krueger Mark Kipf		<u>Sept. 13</u> Ken Vagt <u>Sept. 17</u> Mark Fuerstenberg Jeremy Robinson		<u>Sept. 27</u> Alan Bober <u>Oct. 1</u> Jake Burke Steve Sordahl



Zion's Chili/Soup 2nd Cook-Off
October 14th 4:30 p.m.
Calling Chili/Soup Lovers!
Come to compete or to eat.

Bring your pot o' chili/soup and your
appetite
to see who has the best chili/soup around!

Rather eat than cook? Grab a spoon and
judge who will be the winner!

Admission \$5.00

Chili/Soup Cook-Off Entries:

- Each entry can be created by an INDIVIDUAL, or by a TEAM.
- Each entry must be fully cooked, hot and delivered in a 5-8 quart crockpot.
- Blind, anonymous judging to be done by all attendees.
- Sign-up sheet in west foyer of church.

Chili/Soup Cook-Off Official Rules:

- Grab a Scorecard and Pen.

Round 1: Taste Test only! (sign-up in west foyer)

- Begin sampling chili/soup by just taking enough to taste. There will be time to come back for more later!
- Each chili/soup is identified by either a number or letter. Taste each chili/soup and score according to the instructions located on the scorecard.
- Once all the chilies/soups have been tasted and scored, submit your voting ballot in the designated area.

Round 2: DIG IN!

- Grab a big bowl of chili/soup and wait to find out who is the winner of the cook-off!

Prizes will be awarded.

Zion's Harvest Party

27TH OCT | 5:30PM - 7:30PM



DRESS A SCARECROW CONTEST!

BRING YOUR OWN MATERIALS. STRAW AND FRAME PROVIDED.
DECORATING OPEN FROM THURSDAY 3PM - FRIDAY 5:30PM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE!

PRESENTED BY EIGHTH GRADE - 7PM

CARNIVAL-STYLE FAMILY GAMES!

PIZZA, DONUTS, AND CIDER PROVIDED!

*\$5 DONATION/PERSON SUGGESTED