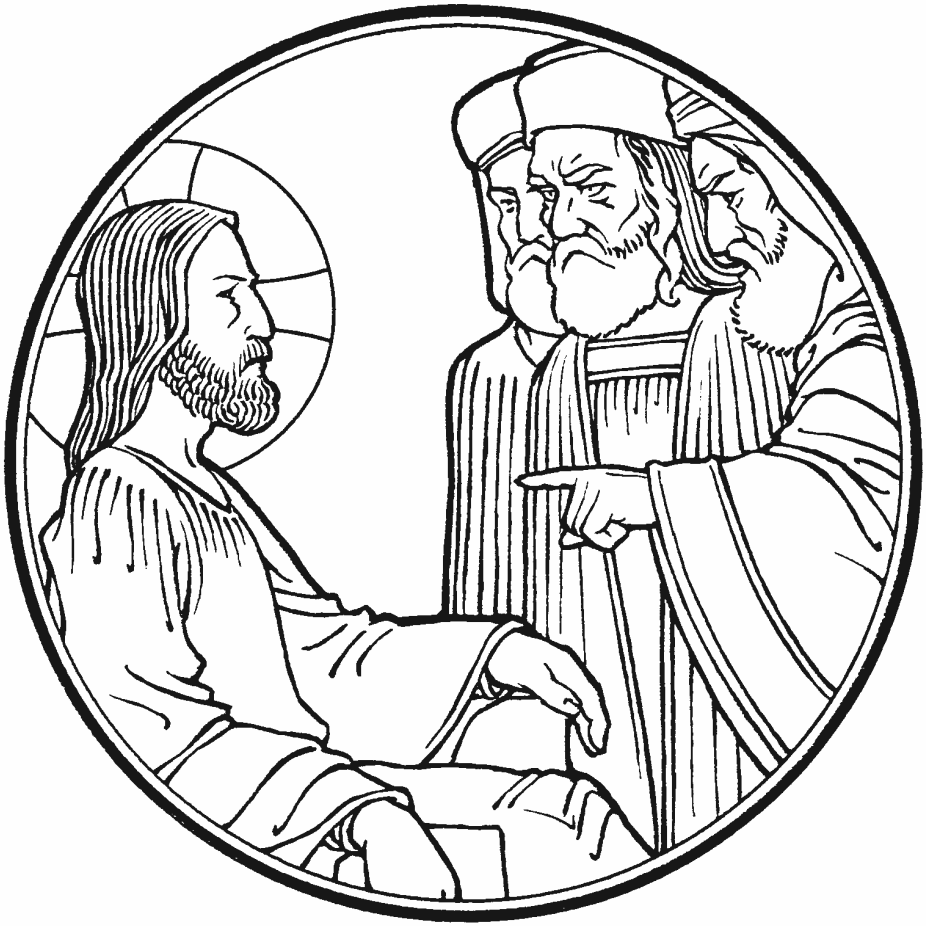
Divine Service



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27th, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church

Kearney, Nebraska

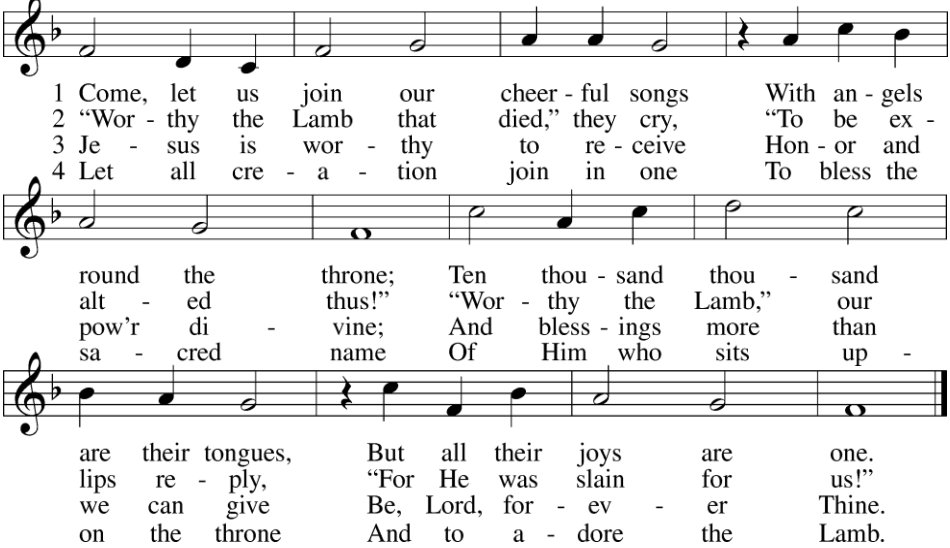
A Warm Welcome to Our Guests!

Please sign our guest book in the narthex or a pew card so we know how we can best serve you. If you are a member in good standing of a sister LC-MS congregation, we invite you to commune with us. Members of other church bodies with whom we are not in confessional fellowship are asked to please refrain from communing. Our pastor will be happy to explain how our desire for Christian care and unity is shown in our communion practice. All communicants need to register in the narthex prior to the service. Those not communing are invited to come to the altar, cross your arms in front of you, and bow your head to receive a pastoral blessing.

The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: *"The soul who sins shall die"* (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has *"no pleasure in the death of anyone"* (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, *"shall surely live; he shall not die"* (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, *"he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"* (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, *"God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now *"shine as lights in the world"* (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even *"the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God"* (Matt. 21:31–32).

812 Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

Stand

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

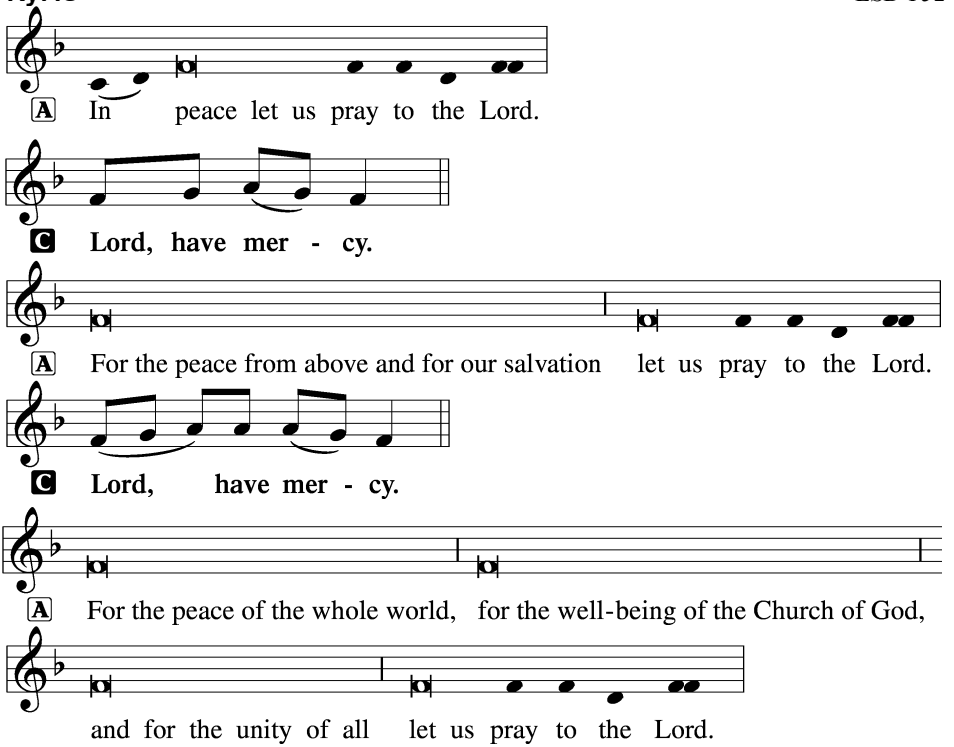
Introit

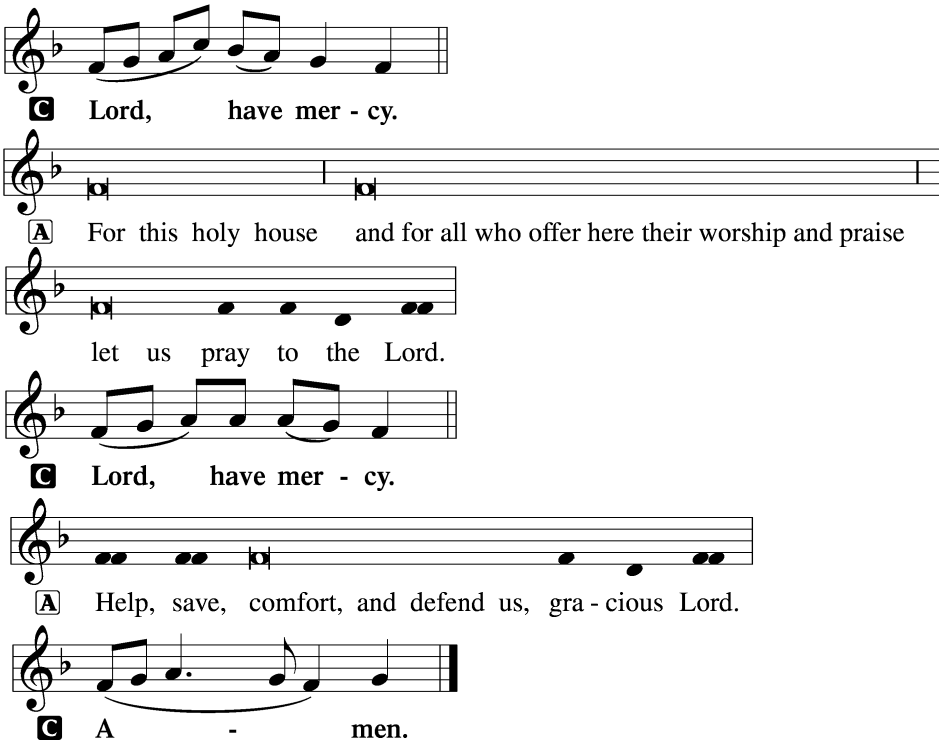
Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

The Lord lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
The Lord builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
The Lord lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie

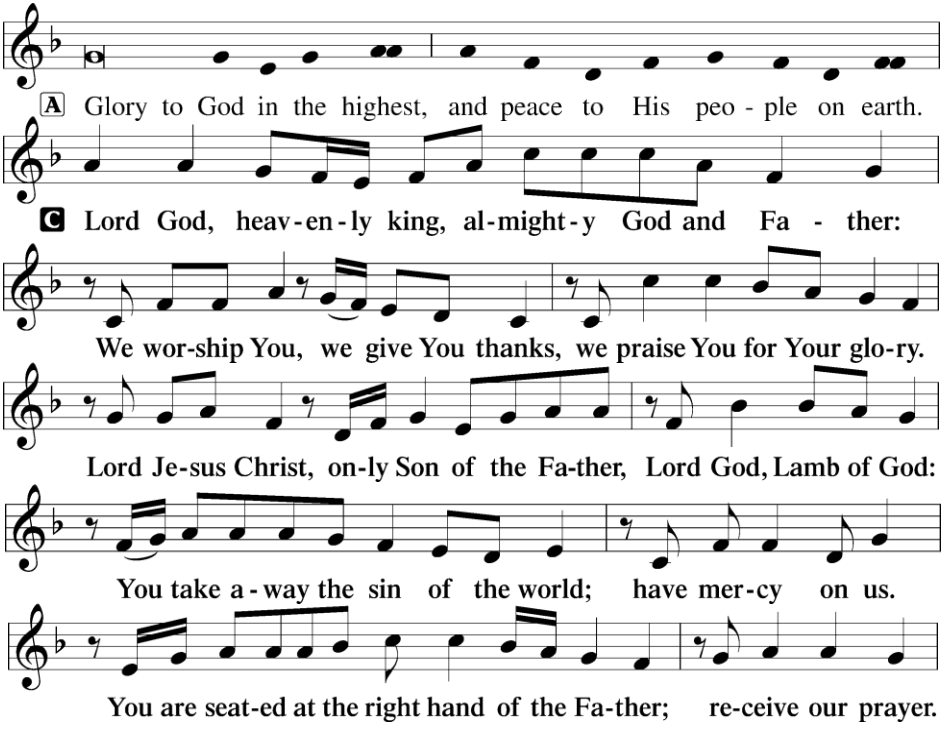
LSB 152

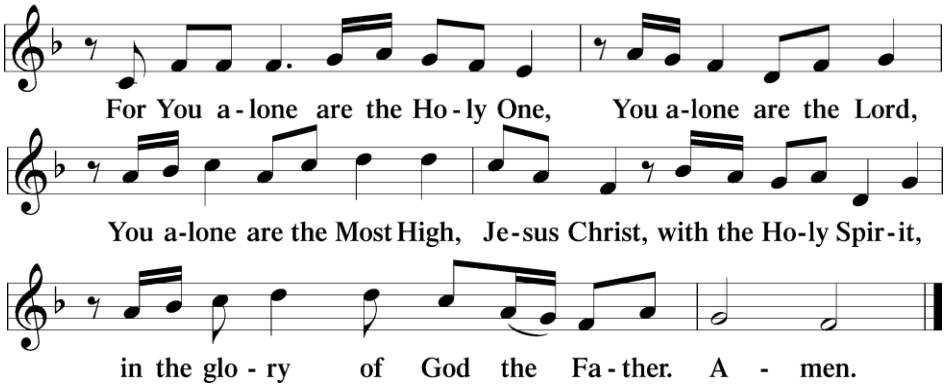


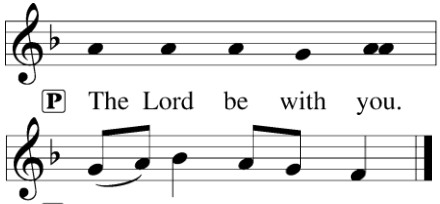


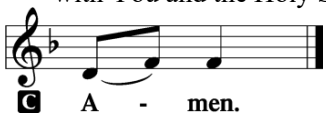
Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154





Salutation and Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

[1]The word of the LORD came to me: [2]"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? [3]As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. [4]Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

[25]"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? [26]When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. [27]Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. [28]Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [29]Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,
declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be
your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and
make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?
32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and
live.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

1 If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation
in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same
mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from
rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let
each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

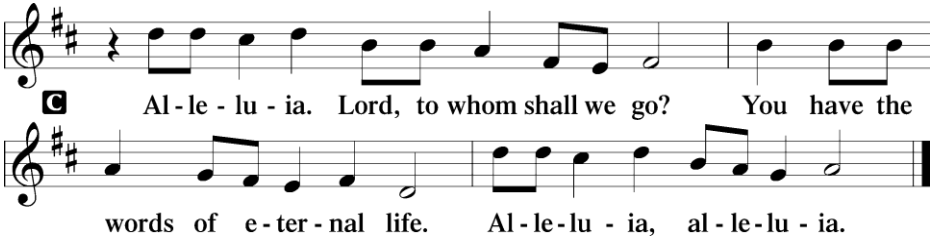
14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and
innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted
generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word
of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor
in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering
of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad
and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

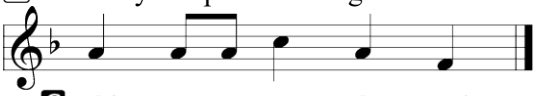
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Holy Gospel

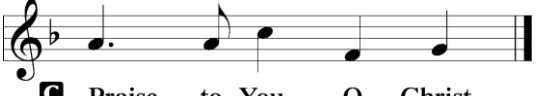
Matthew 21:23–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glo - ry to You, O Lord.**

[23]When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" [24]Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. [25]The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' [26]But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." [27]So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

[28]"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' [29]And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30]And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. [31]Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. [32]For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

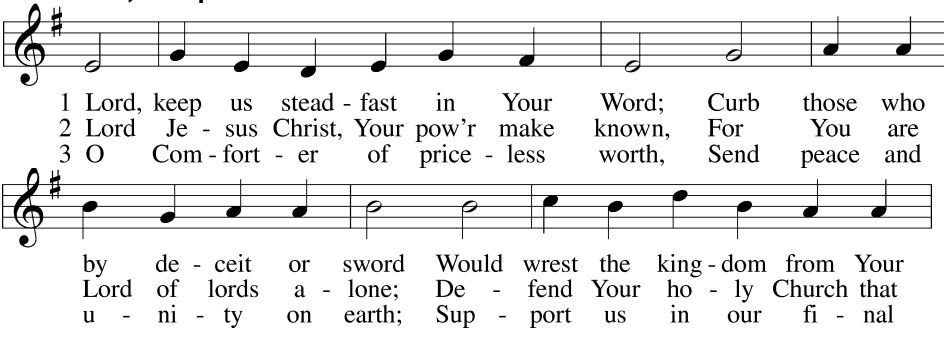
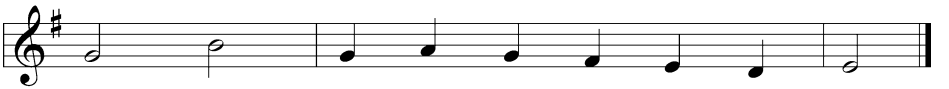
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

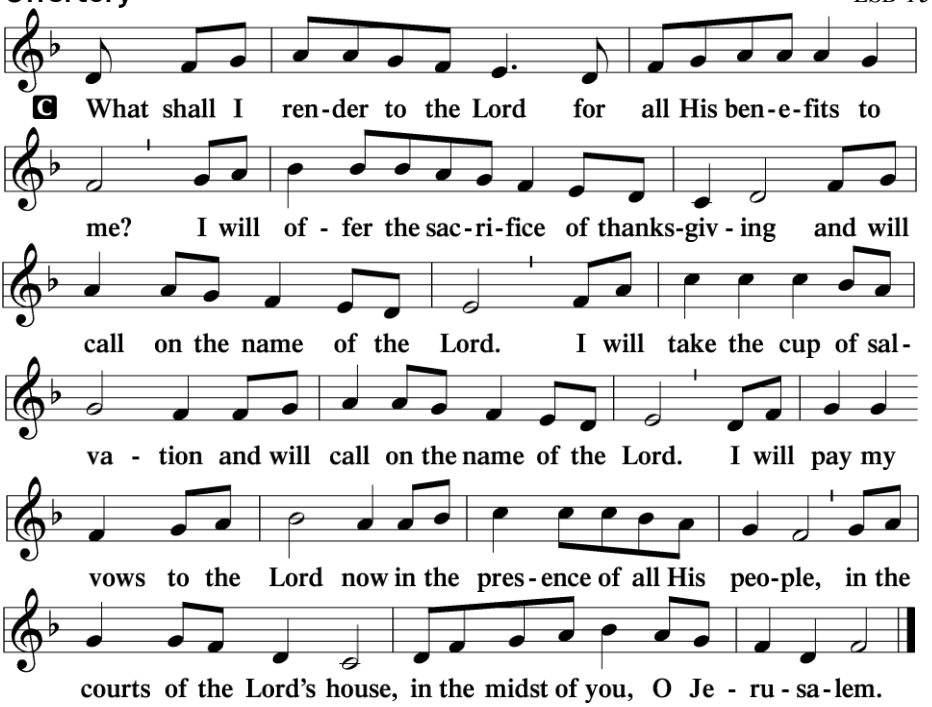
Sit

Offering

Stand

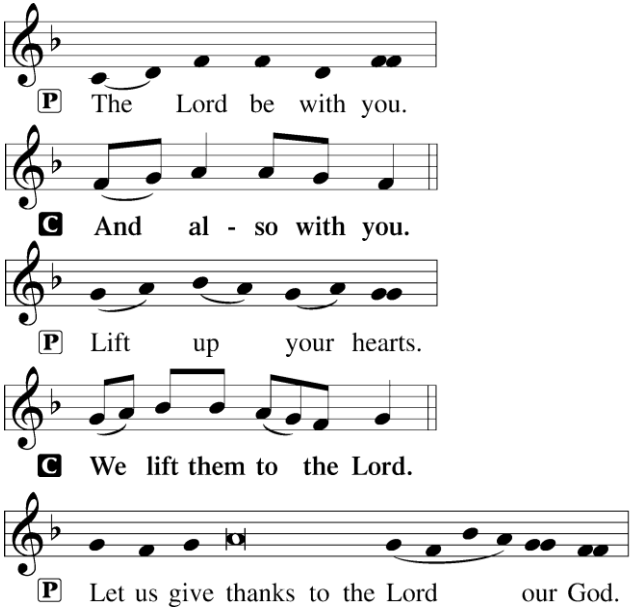
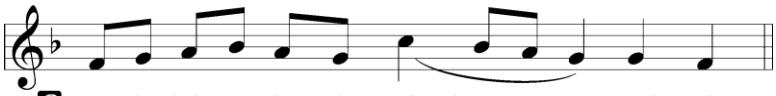
Zion Adult Choir - "In Holy Conversation"

Offertory

LSB 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160



C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

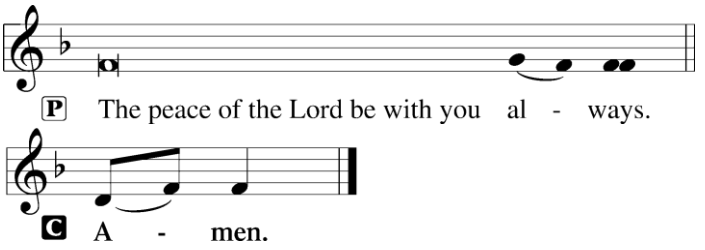
The Words of Our Lord

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."

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."

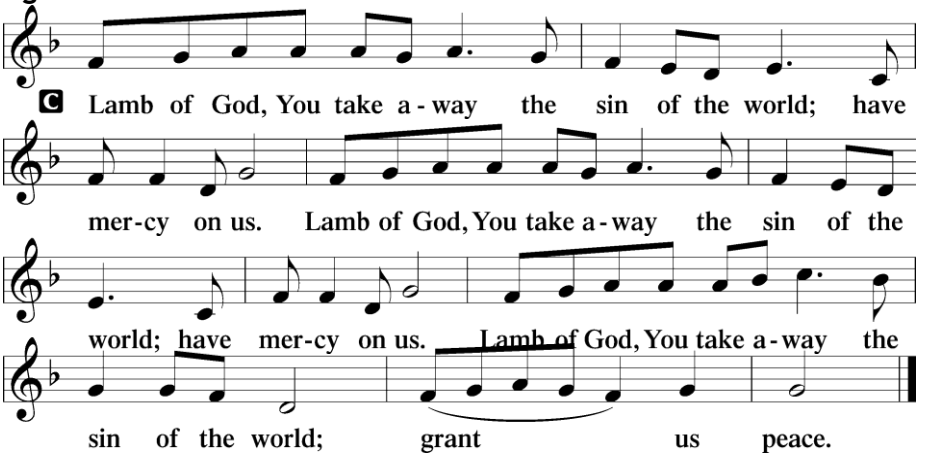
Pax Domini

LSB 163



Agnus Dei

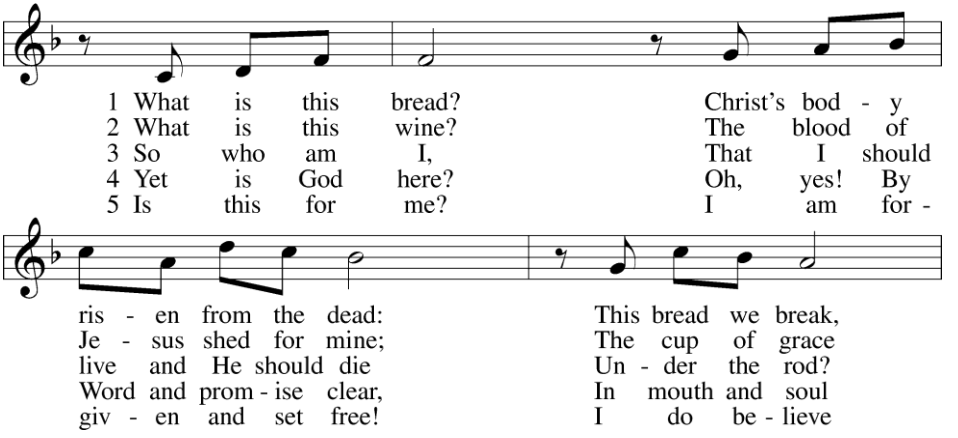
LSB 163

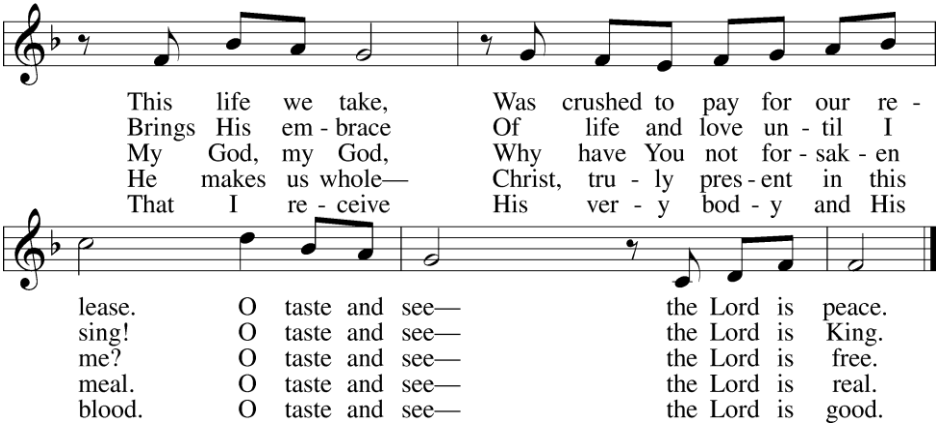


Sit

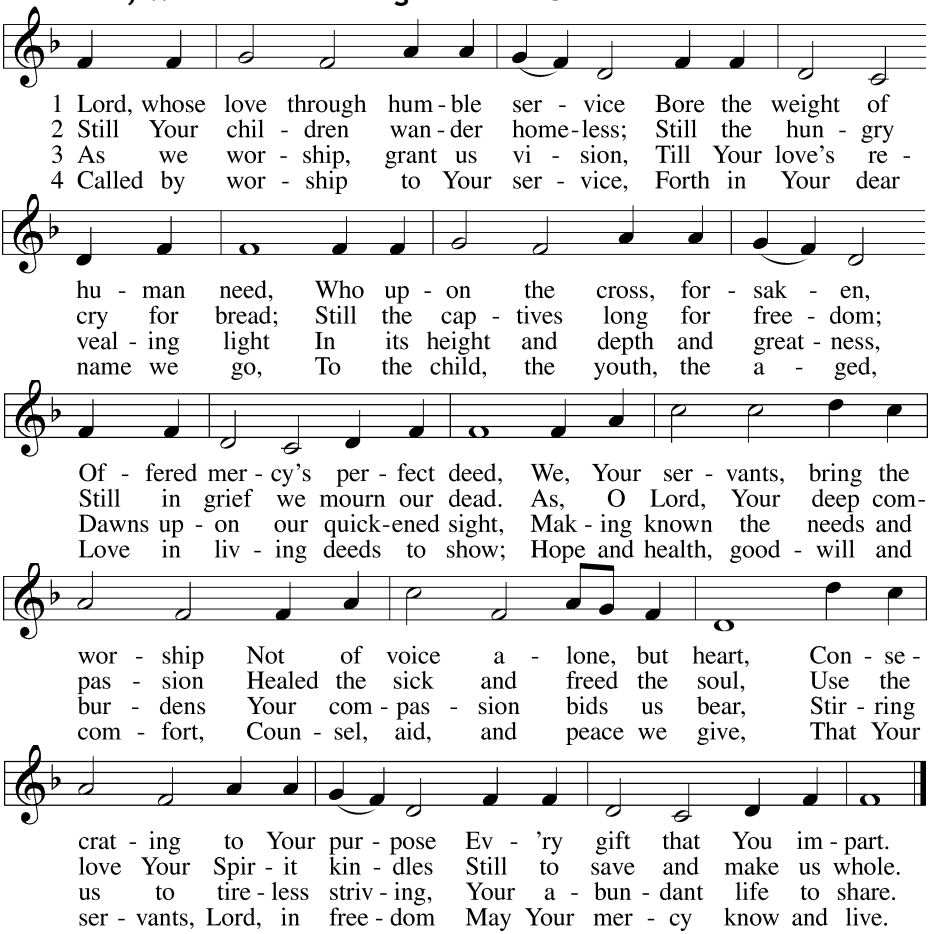
Distribution

629 What Is This Bread

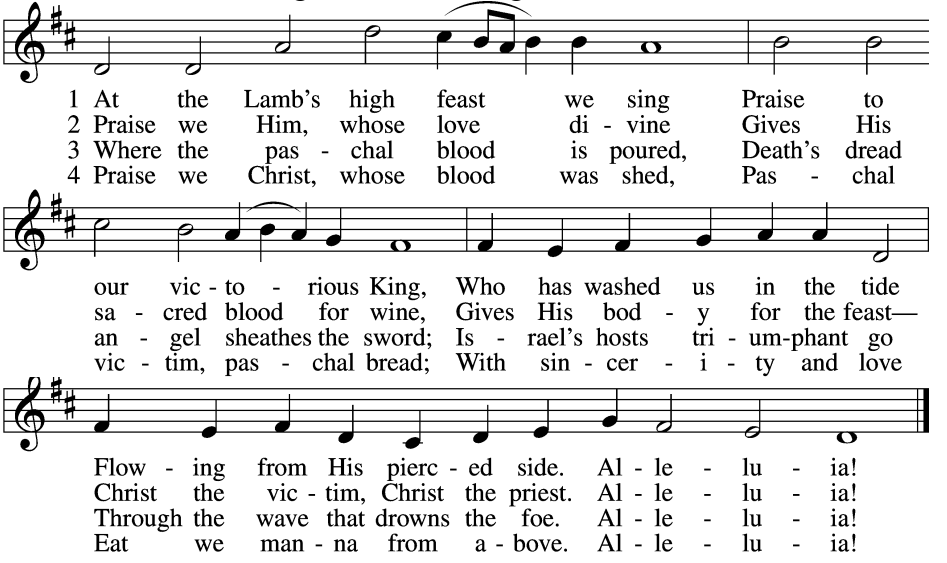




Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946 Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951 Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003744

848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003744 Tune: Public domain

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



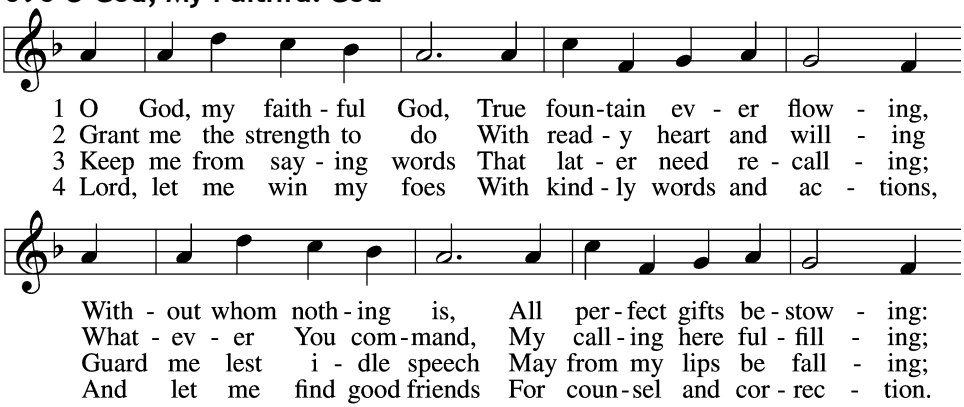
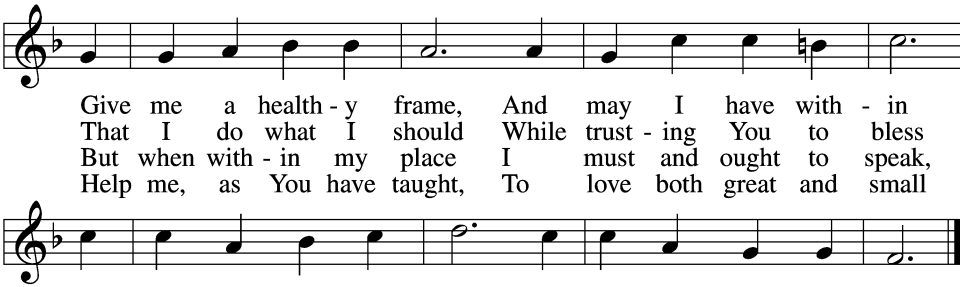
5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

△8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice Text and tune: Public domain

696 O God, My Faithful God



5 Let me depart this life
Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul
That it may live forever;
And let my body have
A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave;
And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

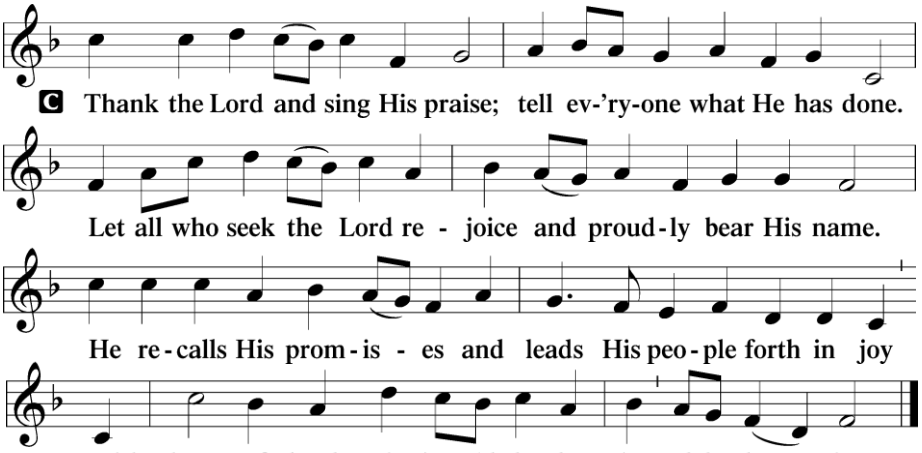
Dismissal

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.**

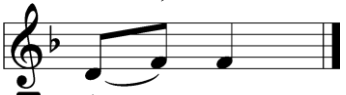
Thank the Lord

LSB 164

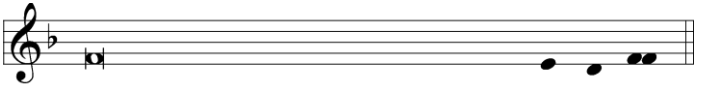


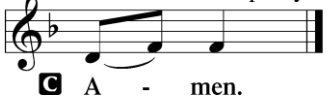
Post-Communion Collect

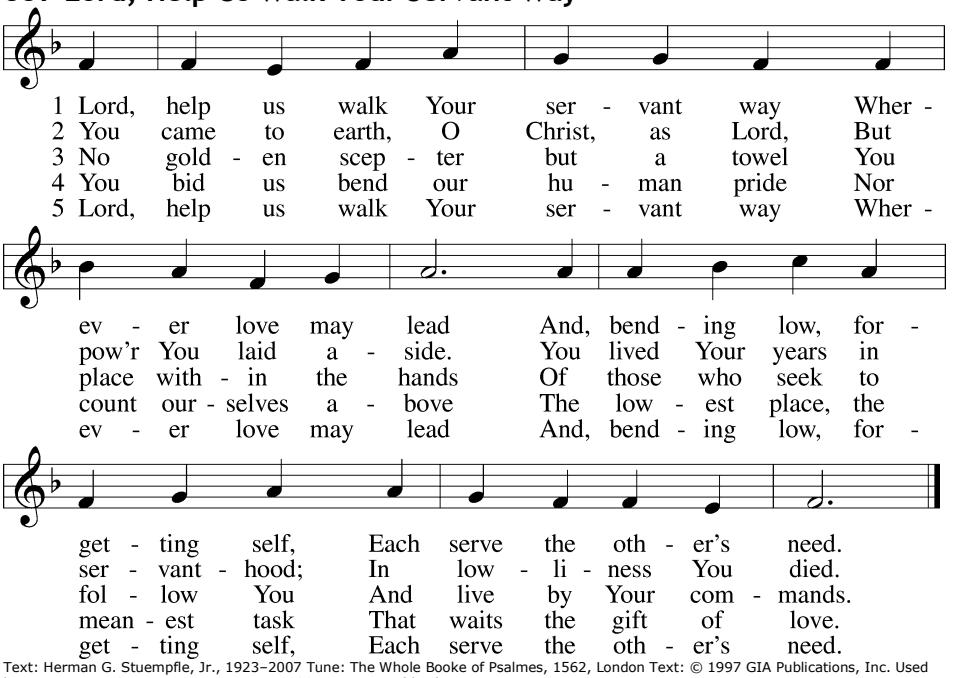
P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



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Acknowledgments

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Prayers for Our Members	
Family & Friends of Vaughn Albrecht	**Grief**
Brittney Edwards	Expecting
Chelsea Herrera	Expecting
Aubrey Kadow	Expecting
Meka Nabity	Expecting
Gary Albers *(St. Luke's)*	Healing
DyAnn Altwine (*Mt. Carmel)*	Healing
Dave Banner	Healing
Rose Braden	**Healing**
Rich Crow	Healing
Pat Flodine (*Homestead*)	Healing
Jade Florang	Healing
Marilyn Fuqua	Healing
Jerry Hansen	Healing
Jan Hatfield	Healing
Ruby Hatfield	Healing
Gwen Holtz	Healing
Don Richmond	Recovery
Marion Richmond	Healing
Debra Schinkel	Healing
Lincoln Baker	Cancer
Jill Bates	Cancer
John Haubold	Cancer

Prayers for Our Members' Family & Friends	
Joanna Allwardt (*Pastor and Carol DeLoach's niece)*	Expecting
Kayli DeLoach (*Zach's wife)*	Expecting
Kellsey McMahon (*Chris & Sarah Hoehner's daughter)*	Expecting
Nicole Teten (*Chris & Sarah Hoehner's daughter)*	Expecting
Joan Bentley (*Kreutzer's friend*)	Healing
Arlene Blessen (*Margaret Smith's sister-in-law)*	Healing
Marsha Emmons (*Crow's friend)*	Healing
Randy Fritson (*Carol Herron's friend*)	Healing
Barb Glover (*Shirley Helmbrecht's sister)*	Healing
Carolina Mulligan (*Pat Flodine's newborn granddaughter)*	Healing
Noah Ramirez (*Isaiah Gaunt's friend)*	Healing
Melissa Sims (*Jade Florang's friend)*	Healing
Randy Solomon *(Beth Rosenthal's father)*	Healing
Ruth Sturgeon (*Joyce Hartman's aunt)*	Healing
Pastor Brad Birtell (*Willers' friend)*	Cancer
Emily Brachley (*Hodgson's friend*)	Cancer
Paul Brooks (*Bruce Brooks & Becky Thornton's brother*)	Cancer
Reagan Brown (*Westman's friend)*	Cancer
Mike & Sherrie Crow (*Rich's brother & sister-in-law*)	Cancer
Glenda Fichtner (*Ruby Hatfield's niece*)	Cancer
Ron Halvorsen *(Jeff's dad)*	Cancer
Heather Hawke (*Ken & Ellen Hockemeier's niece)*	Cancer
Sharon Kreutzer (*Rich's mom*)	Cancer
Ashley Maddox (*Ken & Ellen Hockemeier's niece)*	Cancer
Wilber Medbery (*Westman's friend)*	Cancer
Sharon Mulhair *(Pam Uhlir's cousin)*	Cancer
Marianne Paben (*Fattig's friend)*	Cancer
Jennelle Pietsch (*Ellen Koopman's sister-in-law)*	Cancer
Carlie Russell (*Sue Bartels' friend*)	Cancer
Pastor North Sherrill (*Former Zion Pastor)*	Cancer

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Pr. James DeLoach, Pastor + (308) 627-5260

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Pr. Doug Gaunt, Pastor + (308) 455-0552

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Church Office

Administrative Assistant: Holly Reid

Email: school@zionkearney.org

Phone: (308)-234-3410

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm

Website: www.zionkearney.com

The Radio Broadcast is sponsored by the Evelyn Heiden Memorial, All glory to God.

Today's Altar Flowers are sponsored by Bob Vos,
In memory of Kim's birthday.

Worship Assistants

Sunday, September 27th – 9:00am

Elder: Paul Burger
Acolyte: Brynne Fisher
Announcer: Lonna Gronewoller
Usher: Mike Wilkens
Engineer: Matt Hodgson
Altar Guild:
Carol Gaunt and Liz Gaunt

Sunday, October 4th – 9:00am

Elder: Ken Hockemeier
Acolyte: Jarren Blattner
Announcer: Carol Kreutzer
Usher: Ed DeLaet
Engineer: Jamie Marquardt
Altar Guild: Jami Helmbrecht & Shirley Helmbrecht

Response to the Gospel

Date: 9/20/2026

Offering: $11,696.97

Weekly Need: $9,230

Offering Options:

To worship the Lord with your offering:
1) Place your offering in the offering plate.
2) Go to zionkearney.churchtrac.com/give
3) Go to zionkearney.com and click on the ChurchTrac icon
4) Mail it to Zion Lutheran Church, 2421 C Ave, Kearney, NE 68847

This Week at Zion

Sun 9/27	**9:00a** **10:30a** **10:30a** **5:00p**	**Divine Service** **Adult Bible Study & Sunday School** **Radio Broadcast** **1460AM & 92.1FM** **Divine Service**
Mon 9/28	*Birthdays*	*Jill Bates* *Tommy France*
Tues 9/29	**1:30p** **5:30p**	**Sleeping Mats** **Midweek**
Wed 9/30	**8:30a** **6:00p** **6:30p** **7:00p** *Anniversaries*	**Chapel** **Handbells** **New Testament Stories** **Adult Choir** *Todd & Chelsea Junge*
Thurs 10/1		
Fri 10/2		
Sat 10/3	**8:00a-10:00a** *Birthdays*	**UNK Alumni Brunch** **(Private Event) – Fellowship Hall** *Elaine Steuhm*
Sun 10/4	**9:00a** **10:30a** **10:30a** **5:00p** *Birthdays*	**Divine Service** **Adult Bible Study & Sunday School** **Radio Broadcast** **1460AM & 92.1FM** **Divine Service** *James Davis*

Announcements for September 27th, 2026

Weekly Memory Verse:

"For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." **- Psalm 91:11-12**

Mary Martha Collection: Mary Martha LWML is collecting donations to support Crossroads Mission, a homeless shelter in Kearney. To help with this local mission, you may bring Pine Sol, Windex, 13-gallon trash bags and/ or Ibuprofen/Tylenol to a collection point next to the mailboxes in the hallway. The donations will be collected until Saturday October 17th. Your support is appreciated.

LWML Sunday: Next Sunday, October 4th is LWML Sunday. The ladies of Mary Martha will be singing "Take My Life and Let it Be" during the offering. Practice will be 8:30a in the Fellowship Hall.

3rd Quarter Missions: All mission offering from July-September will help Rev. Jonathan Clausing and his family, who are serving in Tanzania. **He is currently on sabbatical from Tanzania. While his newsletters won't start again until November, he has a WordPress blog with daily updates. You can check that out here: clausing2026cdt.wordpress.com**
You can also scan the QR code on the Mission wall by the bathrooms. For more information go to: https://www.lcms.org/clausing

Zion Lutheran Church Foundation Scholarship Application
Do you know any Zion full-time college students who intend to become a full-time church worker? Please have them complete this application. https://forms.office.com/r/gpJVEESCTa

SCHOOL NEWS

Pie Sales: The annual pie sales will start this week! Be watching for the sales packet that will go home.