

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

8th Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

God Leads Medley:

"He Leadeth Me" by William B. Bradbury & Joseph H. Gilmore

"God Leads Us Along" by G.A. Young

"Lead On, O King Eternal" by Henry T. Smart & Ernest W. Shurtleff

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgive us all our sins.

SENDING HYMN

"Oh, For a Thousand..." (vs.1,3,4,6) **HYMN NO. 886**

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Which part of the word of God -- the readings and the sermon -- resonates with you today?
2. What is one moment from the rest of the service (liturgy, hymns, or prayers) that you want to keep with you the rest of the week?

DISMISSAL

P Be at peace. Christ is with you today and always.

R Thanks be to God.

"He Is Able to Deliver Thee" by William A. Ogden

P As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick especially those we name in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

R 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

BENEDICTION

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.

R Amen

P 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 of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

GATHERING

HYMN *"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"* **HYMN NO. 520**

**Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.**

**Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.**

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R And also with you.

KYRIE (*Responses Sung*)**HYMNAL p. 147**

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

R Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

R Amen**HYMN OF PRAISE** "*Glory to God...*" **HYMNAL p. 148**

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

R Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

R Amen

R On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R And also with you.**RESPONSE****OFFERING**

The work of God continues, even when we can't gather in person. While the offering plate can't be passed around, there are still several ways to tithe:

- Mail your offering envelope to the church office
- Check out Zion's website for online donation option via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)
OR you can go directly to this link <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1367077>
- Set up direct bill pay at your personal bank

*And always remember, there are **many** ways we can make offerings to God, such as prayer and acts of service.*

"A Perfect Heart" by Reba Rambo & Dony McGuire

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

**The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Text © 1971 Hope Publishing Company

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we baptize, in the words of the Apostles' Creed

R **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 to the dead.**

YTZ

WORD

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.” ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.

R **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.
R Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

HYMNAL p. 151



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." (NRSV)

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Carefully Scattered"

Rev. Lisa Hoelscher

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, The Family of Marilyn Green (sister of Julia Weden), Myrtle Becker, Claribel Hannemann, Peggy Janssen, Leola Landis, Gary McVey, Bee Troxell, Evelyn Wells, Edith Wilderotter, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

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The Special Concern for July is the FBG Food Pantry and Hill Country Needs Council. The Council along with the Mission Committee both agreed to have the July's Special Concern offerings be divided equally between the Food Pantry and Needs Council, same as it was in May.

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Virtual Family Nights – Monday, July 27, & Aug. 3 @ 6:30-7:10ish via Zoom. Please contact Pastor Lisa at pastorlisah@gmail.com for the Zoom Meeting Link. **Anyone can join in.**

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You are invited to join us for Zion's WELCA Bible Study on Thursday, August 5, a 1:30pm via ZOOM. To join download the free ZOOM app. Pastor Lisa will send you an invitation and a link you can click on to join. You will need a computer or cell phone. Invite a friend. Call the church office if you need help.

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Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$2,565, your Food Pantry Contributions of \$25, your Needs Council Contributions of \$25, and your Postage Contributions of \$25 given this past week.

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We had 65 views of last Sunday's video on our YouTube channel.

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IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE YOUR BULLETIN IN THE MAIL BY SATURDAY.....PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH OFFICE PORCH FOR COPIES YOU CAN PICK UP.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fredericksburg, Texas

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8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 26, 2020

Broadcast on KNAF (910AM) at 10:30AM

Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 10:30am

(go to www.youtube.com & search 'Zion Fredericksburg, TX')

Podcast available www.zion-lutheran.com under sermons tab

Senior Pastor – Rev. Ron Windecker; prwzion@gmail.com

Associate Pastor – Rev. Lisa Hoelscher; pastorlisah@gmail.com

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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