

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

17th Sunday after Pentecost Sept. 27, 2020

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

“Shout to the Lord” by Darlene Zschech

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

R 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,

R 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. 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

SENDING HYMN “Oh, for...” (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.

DISMISSAL

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

R Thanks be to God.

“Healer of Our Every Ill” by Marty Haugen

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?

R **hear our prayer.**

P Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

R **hear our prayer.**

P Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit especially those we name in our hearts. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

R **hear our prayer.**

P Fill us with your compassion and sympathy O Lord. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

R **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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**

GATHERING

HYMN *"Come, Thou Almighty King"* **HYMN NO. 408**

**Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.**

**Come, thou incarnate Word,
merciful, mighty Lord;
our prayer attend.**

**Come and thy people bless,
and give thy word success,
and let thy righteousness on us descend.**

**Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour!
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in ev'ry heart,
never from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.**

**To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be
hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore.**

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.*

"This Is My Song" by Jean Sibelius, Lloyd Stone, & Georgia Harkness

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Heavenly Father, we come before you and bring our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

R hear our prayer.

P Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation may prosper. Lord, in your mercy,

HYMN “Take My Life...” (vs. 1,2,3,5,6) **HYMN NO. 685**

**Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever,
only, all for thee.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC “On Eagle's Wings” **Ray Salinas**

YTZ

WORD

FIRST READING **Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live. (NRSV)

A The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

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

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (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 21st Chapter.

R Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as 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 am doing these things. ²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 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 after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. (NRSV)

P The gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Pivot" **Rev. Lisa Hoelscher**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Myrtle Becker, Kurt Grunau, Claribel Hannemann, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

The Special Concerns for September are the Needs Council and Food Pantry. The Mission Committee and Council appreciate your generosity in support of these vital community services.

You will be receiving letters from the Pastors and Council President, Robert Menking along with worship guidelines regarding opening the Sanctuary for worship. Please check your USPS mail.

- To worship in the sanctuary, **you must register ahead of time** by calling the church office (830-997-2195). To attend worship on October 4th, please register by Wednesday, September 30 before 3:00pm. Voice messages will be checked frequently.

Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$3,940, your Needs Council Contributions of \$25, your Food Pantry Contributions of \$225, and your LWR Beirut Appeal Contributions of \$70 given this past week.

We had 51 views of last Sunday's video on our YouTube channel.

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

To access the broadcast on YouTube, type www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube into your web browser.

Oct-Dec Portals of Prayer are available in the box on the front porch of the church office.

**ZION HAS A NEW REDISIGNED WEBSITE.
SAME WEB ADDRESS: WWW.ZION-LUTHERAN.COM**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Fredericksburg, Texas

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17th Sunday after Pentecost – Sept. 27, 2020

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

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

(go to www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube)

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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