

Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

P=Presider **R=Responses**

BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC

“God Bless the U.S.A.” by Lee Greenwood

“America the Beautiful” by Samuel A. Ward & Katharine Lee Bates

(Please stand, kneel or remain seated)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

R Amen

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Dear God,

R we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen

P Let us live now in hope because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. 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

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

SENDING HYMN

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

**Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.**

**Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle, see, his banners go!**

***Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers,
marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.***

**Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
let us boldly follow where the saints have trod.
We are not divided; all one body we;
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity. *Refrain***

**Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
but the church of Jesus constant will remain;
gates of hell can never ’gainst the church prevail.
We have Christ’s own promise, and that cannot fail. *Refrain***

**Onward, then, you faithful, join our happy throng;
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the king.**

We through countless ages with the angels sing: *Refrain*

Text: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

R Thanks be to God.

“Battle Hymn of the Republic” ~Music: American Folk Song, 19th Century; Lyrics: Julia Ward Howe

HYMN*“Break Now the Bread of Life”* (vs.1)**HYMN NO. 515**

**Break now the bread of life,
 dear Lord, to me,
 as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
 Beyond the sacred page
 I seek you, Lord;
 my spirit waits for you,
 O living Word.**

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

HYMN*“Blessed Assurance”* (vs.1)**HYMN NO. 638**

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior, all the day long:
 this is my story, this is my song,
 praising my Savior all the day long.***

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

“My Country, 'Tis of Thee” ~Music: *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1744; Lyrics: Samuel F. Smith*(Please stand as you are able)***BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

R Amen**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

R Amen**GATHERING***(Please stand as you are able)***GATHERING HYMN***“God of Our Fathers”* (vs.1,2,4)

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
 leads forth in beauty all the starry band
 of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
 our grateful songs before your throne arise.**

**Your love divine has led us in the past;
 in this free land by you our lot is cast;
 oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
 your word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

**Refresh your people on their toilsome way;
 lead us from night to never-ending day;
 fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace
 until at last we meet before your face.**

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841-1907, 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 (from the Greek word "Lord" – Sung)

HYMN NO. 157

A In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, and defend us, O God.

C Amen

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

HYMN NO. 167

**Refrain: Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God. Refrain**

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ forever. Refrain**

**For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God;
to make all things new. Refrain**

Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950; Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Let us pray. God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

R Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

HYMNAL p. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

R And also with you.

RESPONSE

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

“God Bless America” by Irving Berlin

(Please stand as you are able)

DIALOGUE *(Spoken)*

P The Lord be with you.

R And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

R We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

(Sung)

HYMN NO. 191 *(Holy, Holy...)*

R Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

(Please be seated)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“This is My Song” by Jean Sibelius **Zion Gospel Singers**

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today’s reading recounts God’s commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God’s word to a people unwilling to hear.

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord God.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

L The Word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ’s grace is sufficient for us.

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L The Word of the Lord.

R **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Thy Word”



Thy Word is a lamp un-to — my feet and a light un-to my path.



Thy Word is a lamp un-to — my feet and a light un-to my path.

Words & Music by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith; CCLI #14301 © 1984 Word Music, LLC Meadow Green Music Co.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.

R **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL **Matthew 11:25-30**

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

R **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON “Maintain and Improve What We Have” **Rev. Ron Windecker**

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” **HYMN NO. 888**

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.**

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A 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. 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**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

In our Hearts and Prayers: our homebound and shut-ins, all other nursing home residents, Kathlyn Haun, Claribel Hannemann, Ashley Klaerner (son of Dorothy Moellering), Jerome Lindig, The Family of Bernard Scrogin, Margaret Wilke, our Fredericksburg community, our government, our nation, and the military.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory and honor of all patriot's past and present, and also celebrating Jim and Emma Jane O'Neal's birthdays.

July's Special Concern is the Gillespie Literacy Council. Sharing our language is a priceless gift. The Gillespie Literacy Council strives to increase literacy by offering tutoring in Basic Literacy, ESL, and Citizenship Preparation. It relies on funding from churches, civic groups, and individuals in our community. Please consider helping with this ministry.

Holy Communion will be offered today and July 18 during the 10:30am service.

You are invited to join Zion's Women of the Church for Bible Study on Wednesday, July 7 at 10:00am in the Conference Room. Deborah Windecker will lead the Bible Study, "Just Truth." We will travel with Paul on the road to Damascus and experience his life-changing transformation.

The 2nd Sunday Worship Service will now be held at 8:00am on July 11. It will be live on YouTube at 8:00am as well. The 8:00am radio broadcast slot is still pending approval by the radio station.

Your 2nd Quarter Contribution Statements are available on the table in the Narthex.

The 3rd Sunday Fellowship lunch will NOT meet until further notice.

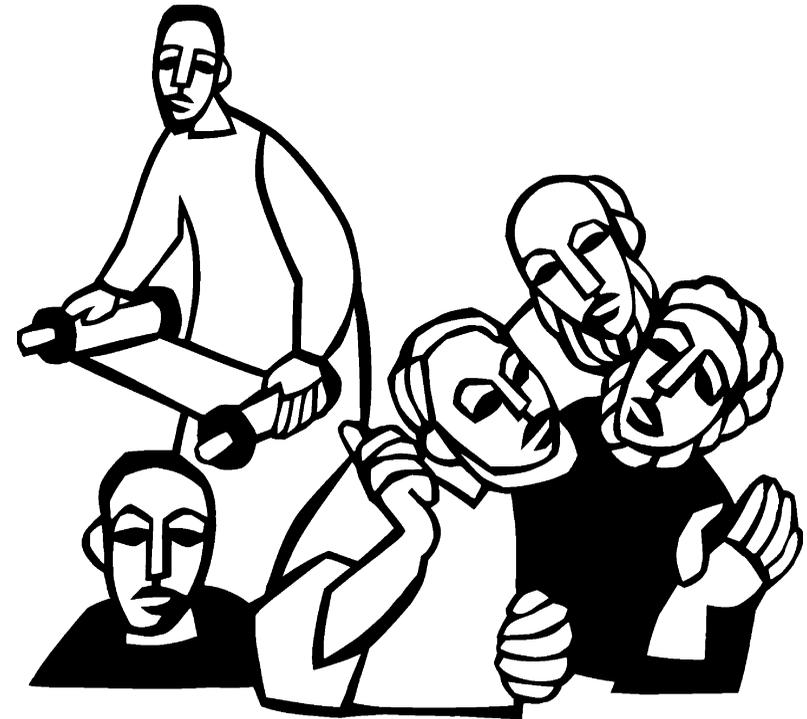
Thank you for your General Fund Contributions of \$1,885, and your Special Contributions of \$115 given this past week. **Attendance:** 68

WORSHIP ASSISTANT & LECTOR – Rhonda Behrends & Diane Mayer

USHERS – Neal Burnham, David Hartmann, Gina Koennecke, Jill Minshew, Sandy Schmidtzinsky

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

MON – July 5		Office Closed
WED – July 7	10:00am	WELCA Bible Study – Conf Room
SUN – July 11	8:00am	In-Person Worship
	8:00am	Service Broadcast on KNAF (<i>still pending</i>)
	8:00am	Service Live on YouTube
		www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 4, 2021

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

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

Accompanist – Sheri Robinson; Director of Music – Ray Salinas

Videographer – Peter Ray

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