

# Zion Lutheran Church

Fredericksburg, Texas

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost      September 17, 2023**

---

P=Presider    **R=Responses**

**BELLS, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** *(Please register your attendance in the books at the end of the row where you are seated, and fill out a prayer request card and place it in the offering basket as you desire.)*

P    Let us pray.

**R    Gracious and loving God, we are grateful for the faithful shepherds you have sent to Zion over the many years in this place. Thank you for the good done in your name. We now wait in expectation for a new pastor. Wherever they may be, tend their heart. Give them courage to preach your Word and knowledge of your vision for the future. Inspire them to live faithfully and honorably. Guard their family as they make the transition to our congregation. Bless the congregation that is left behind with a sense of your comfort and leading. Good and faithful God, prepare us for our new pastor. Set our hearts aright, encourage our faith, heal our divisions. Help us release what has gone before and, with open and eager hearts, embrace what is coming. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen**

*(Please prepare your heart and mind for worship)*

## **PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC**

*“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”* by Andraé Crouch

*(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    Steadfast and faithful God,

**R    you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering.**

*“Something for Thee”* by Robert Lowry & Sylvanus D. Phelps

*(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**

A    Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**R    Amen**

## **BENEDICTION**

P    Wherever you go, may God go with you: may he go before you to show you the way...behind you to encourage you...beside you to befriend you...above you to watch over...and within you to give you peace. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

**R    Amen**

## **SENDING HYMN    “Savior, Again to Your Dear...” (vs.1,2,4) HYMN NO. 534**

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise  
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,  
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;  
with you began, with you shall end the day;  
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
that in this house have called upon your name.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,  
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

## **DISMISSAL**

A    Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**R    Thanks be to God.**

*“Come and Dine”* by C.C. Widmeyer & S.H. Bolton

**COMMUNION SONG**      *"Lamb of God (Your Only Son)"*      **HYMN NO. 336**



1 Your on - ly Son,      no sin to hide,      but you have  
 2 Your gift of love      we cru - ci - fied.      We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost,      I should have died,      but you have



sent him from your side      to walk up - on      this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died.      The hum - ble king      we named a  
 brought me to your side      to be led by      your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.      O Lamb of  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

"Lamb of God" Words and Music by Twila Paris ©1985 Mountain Spring Music and Straight Way Music, License #11089474

**HYMN**      *"As We Gather" (vs.1&2)*      **HYMN NO. 522**

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
 help us know, O God, your presence;  
 let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
 teach us through this holy banquet  
 how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
 send us forth to love and serve you,  
 bringing peace where there is strife.**

**Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
 may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944; Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

**R We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen**

**P** Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. 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**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GATHERING HYMN**      *"Morning Has Broken"*      **HYMN NO. 556**

**Morning has broken like the first morning;  
 blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
 Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
 Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
 like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
 sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
 born of the one light Eden saw play!  
 Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
 God's recreation of the new day!**

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965; Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

**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.**

**Psalm 103:8-13** *(read responsively)*

A The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**R He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

A He does not deal with us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

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

A as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

**R As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*“Listen! You Nations”*

***Refrain:***

***Listen! you nations of the world: listen to the Word of the Lord.  
Announce it from coast to coast; declare it to distant islands.***

**The Lord who scattered Israel will gather his people again;  
and he will keep watch over them as a shepherd watches his flock.**

***Refrain***

**With shouts of joy they will come, their faces radiantly happy,  
for the Lord is so gen'rous to them;  
he showers his people with gifts. *Refrain***

**Young women will dance for joy,  
and men young and old will make merry.  
Like a garden refreshed by the rain,  
they will never be in want again.**

**Break into shouts of great joy: Jacob is free again!**

**Teach nations to sing the song: “The Lord has saved his people!”**

Text: John W. Arthur, b. 1922; Text © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 5: Services of the Word*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**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**

P When we eat this bread, we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Please be seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All are welcome to share the body and blood of Jesus that are present in the bread and wine of communion. If you do not wish to participate, you may still come forward for a blessing. As you come forward, please have your hands open to receive a wafer (the body of Christ). If you desire a gluten free wafer and/or white grape juice, please hold up two fingers to the server.*

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R And also with you.**

## RESPONSE

*(Please be seated)*

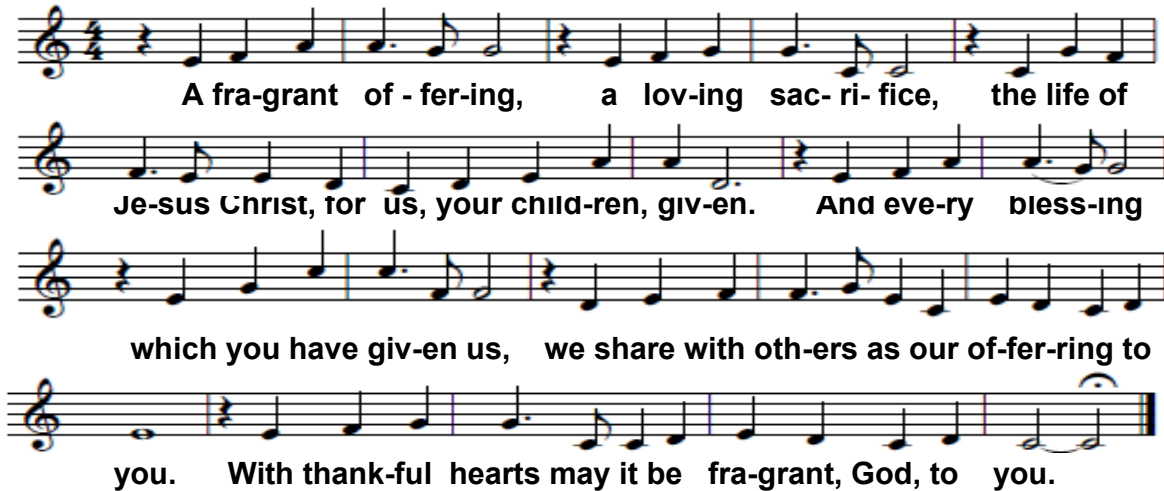
### OFFERING

*"Thy Loving Kindness"* by Hugh Mitchell; based on Psalm 63:3-4

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### OFFERING SONG

*"A Fragrant Offering"*



A fra-grant of - fer-ing, a lov-ing sac- ri- fice, the life of  
Je-sus Christ, for us, your child-ren, giv-en. And eve-ry bless-ing  
which you have giv-en us, we share with oth-ers as our of-fer-ring to  
you. With thank-ful hearts may it be fra-grant, God, to you.

Text and music from One Body, Alive! written by Jay Beech, ©1994 Augsburg Fortress. One License #A-721458

*(Please remain standing 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.

Page 7

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**R And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**R Amen**

*(Please be seated)*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *"My Lord, What a Morning"* African-American spiritual **Diane Mayer**

## FIRST READING

### Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L The Word of the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

<sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L The word of the Lord.

**R Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** "Lord, Listen To Your Children..." **HYMN NO. 752**

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943; Text © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister<sup>[e]</sup> from your heart.'

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Kay Johnson**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "How Firm a Foundation" (vs.1,2,4) **HYMN NO. 796**

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"**

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

**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**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**In our Hearts and Prayers:** Mervel Dittmar, Margie Smothers (mother-in-law of Lillian Smothers), The Family of Isabella Soell (mother of Virginia Soell), Christ Lutheran Church (the GCMA Church of the week), our homebound and shut-ins, our Fredericksburg community, our nation, and the military.

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Dan and Judy McGookey in celebration of their grandson, Westin's 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, and for all their family blessings.

**The September Special Concern is Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief.** Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires are also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii.

**To commemorate Constitution Day,** our local church bells will ring simultaneously today at 3pm.

**Kathy Haley's** memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 30 at 11am in Zion Lutheran Church. A lunch will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.

**The Youth and the Women of the Church** are going to collect school supplies now through September 30. Please leave your supplies in the bus in the Atrium. **See supply list attached to the bus in the Atrium.** Items collected will be divided between the local community and Lutheran World Relief.

**Thank you** for your contributions of \$2,687 given last week. **Attendance** – 51

**ASSISTANT & LECTOR** – Margaret Solbrig

**USHERS** – Glenn & Gina Koennecke, Yvonne Klaerner Marlin & Laurie Hartmann, Margie Eckhardt, Alma Sobey

### MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEK

MON – Sept 18	5:30pm	Line Dancing – Fell Hall
TUES – Sept 19	5:30pm	Chancel Choir – Choir Rm
THURS – Sept 21	5:00pm	Council Mtg – Conf Rm
SAT – Sept 23	3-7:00pm	FBG Class of 1958 Class Reunion – Fell Hall
SUN – Sept 24	9:00am	Worship with Communion (Live on YouTube at 9am & Radio Broadcast at 10:30am)
	10:15am	Adult SS – Sewing Rm
	10:15am	Youth SS – Fell Hall



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Fredericksburg, Texas

426 W. Main – PO Box 1571 – Fredericksburg, TX 78624

(830) 997-2195 – [www.zion-lutheran.com](http://www.zion-lutheran.com) – email: [zionfbg@gmail.com](mailto:zionfbg@gmail.com)

*Go Like Our Facebook Page @* <https://www.facebook.com/ZLCFbgTX/>

*Follow Zion on Instagram @* <https://www.instagram.com/zlcfbgtx/>

*Follow Zion on Twitter @* <https://twitter.com/ZLCFbgTX>

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 17, 2023**

**Video on Zion's YouTube Channel at 9:00AM**

*(go to [www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube](http://www.zion-lutheran.com/youtube))*

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

**Podcast available [www.zion-lutheran.com](http://www.zion-lutheran.com) under sermons tab**

Transitional Pastor – Rev. Kay Johnson

Pianist – Sheri Robinson

Choir Director – Rhonda Behrends

Acknowledgments: New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42721 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net A-721458 THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (CEV) are from the Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society, Used by Permission.