



**November 19, 2023
Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Traditional Worship Service**



Zion
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church

*Zion matters to the
community by
showing the love of
Jesus Christ.*

**STAFFED CHILD
CARE**

Available during
worship service.
Infant thru
Kindergarten.

WIFI = Zion Guest
No password required

www.zion-nc.com

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[@zionnorthcanton](https://www.facebook.com/zionnorthcanton)

Welcome from Presiding Minister (PM)

*Please stand as you are able
Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the worship space.
Welcome Jesus into our presence*

Lord of Light

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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Congregation responses are in bold print

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

And also with you!

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Recognizing that Christ loved us to death in order that our sin is forgiven, Let us admit our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
remember our sin no more.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
remember our sin no more.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven in the name of †Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Let us pray.

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Please be seated

Bible Blessing: Ava Medina

A reading from Zephaniah:

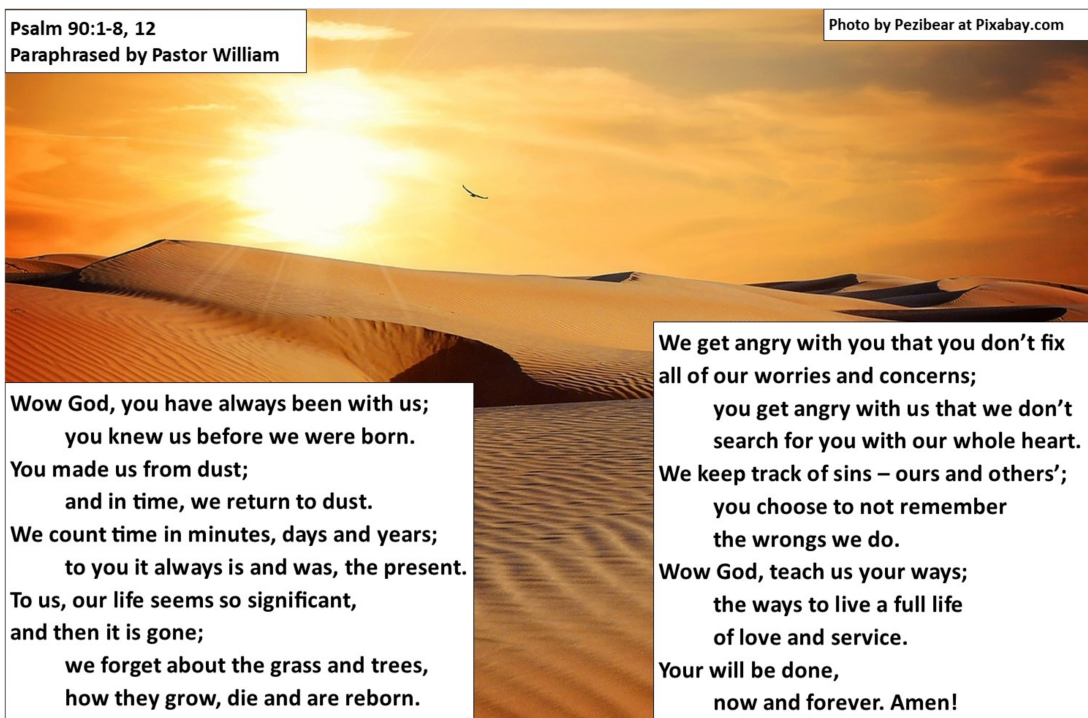
(Zephaniah 1:7,12-18, Pew Bible, Old Testament, page 679)

The reading concludes with:
Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God

Psalm Paraphrase
(Read
responsively
the indented lines)

Psalm 90:1-8, 12
Paraphrased by Pastor William

Photo by Pezibear at Pixabay.com




Wow God, you have always been with us;
you knew us before we were born.
You made us from dust;
and in time, we return to dust.
We count time in minutes, days and years;
to you it always is and was, the present.
To us, our life seems so significant,
and then it is gone;
we forget about the grass and trees,
how they grow, die and are reborn.

We get angry with you that you don't fix
all of our worries and concerns;
you get angry with us that we don't
search for you with our whole heart.
We keep track of sins – ours and others';
you choose to not remember
the wrongs we do.
Wow God, teach us your ways;
the ways to live a full life
of love and service.
Your will be done,
now and forever. Amen!


A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 159)

The reading concludes with:
Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God



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



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

Please stand as you are able

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew

(Matthew 25:14-30, Pew Bible, New Testament, page 22)

Glory to you, O Lord

The reading concludes with:
The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ


Please be seated

Children's Time with Pastor

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

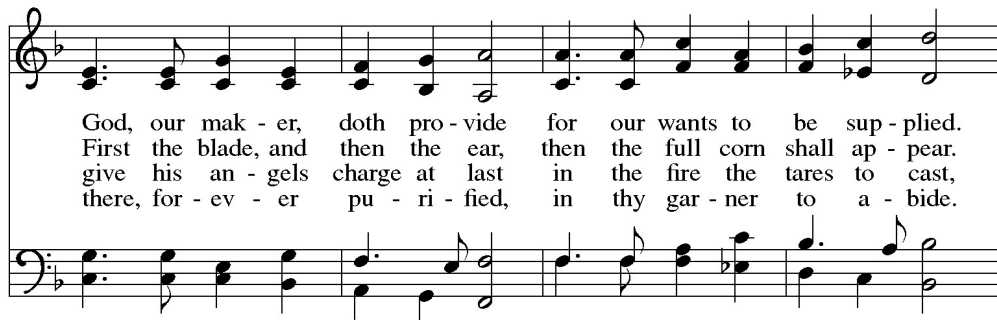
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



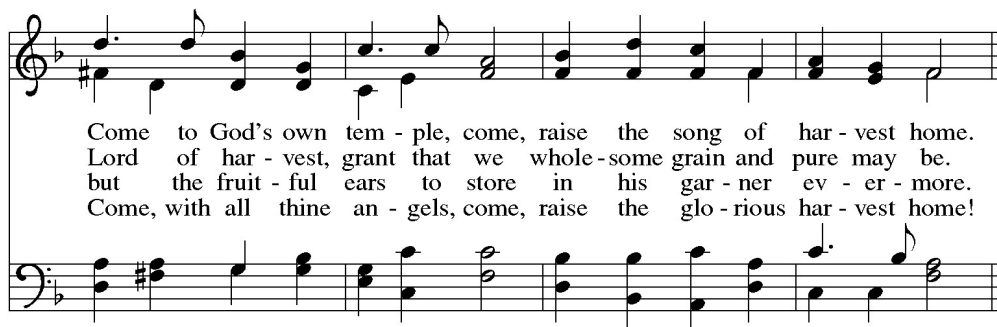
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home;
4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi-nal har-vest home.



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way;
Gath-er then thy peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear.
give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in thy gar-ner to a-bide.



Come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
Come, with all thine an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence for personal prayer

Gracious God, you give abilities and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use your gifts to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the faith formation ministries of all churches. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

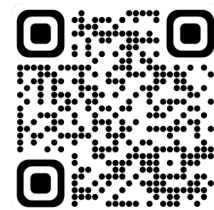
The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan QR code for mobile giving

PC = <https://onrealm.org/ZionLutheranChurchNC/give/now>

Smartphone = <https://abundant.com/ZionLutheranChurch/MobileGiving>



AM: Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,
we gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to us. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.

Please be seated



- Pastor Weidenbach will speak briefly on Stewardship
- John Rhodes will speak briefly on Stewardship
- *Statement of Intent Cards* received

PM: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you, all-holy God,

our maker and our life-giver,

for the universe beyond our knowing,

for lands, and seas, and all animals,

and for friends and strangers and family,

for homes, and grocery stores, and schools,

we praise you for your covenant people of old,

for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam,

and for centuries of faithful Christians,

for Jesus' mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Paul,

We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ,

who saves us from evil and corruption,

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.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for your Holy Spirit,

your breath, your fire, your wisdom,

nourish us with the body and blood of Christ,

inspire your people for service,

and renew the world with your mercy,
with your healing, your justice, and your peace.

We praise you, all-holy God,
the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,

today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen. Amen.

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.

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table .
Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

The Lord's Supper (Communion) at this congregation is practiced as an open table – all are welcome.
Jesus said this is his body and blood given and shed for you;
come receive the loving grace God provides for you.

Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.
Children who commune at their home congregation are encouraged to commune here today too.

Gluten Free wafers available. Request at time of receiving communion.

Communion Music: *Give of Your Best to the Master*

By: Charlotte A. Bernard

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

AM: Let us pray,
Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen.

Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

PM: Let us enthusiastically commit to our mission as we pray,
Lord, our hope and strength comes from you. Open our eyes and our hearts to become the people you want us to be; people who care for the widows and orphans, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the oppressed, and visit the sick and the imprisoned. Give our congregation a vision to make a difference in our community. Enliven us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen

*Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the Worship Space.
 Then follow it out to join in God's work.*

When in Our Music God Is Glorified



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
 2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
 5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
 men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
 e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
 joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
 moved us to a more pro - found
 to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing, for whom he won the fight:
 give us faith to sing al - ways:

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
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Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
We will, with God's help!

Please join in fellowship with coffee and donuts immediately following!

Postlude: *When in Our Music God is Glorified*

By: Charles V. Stanford & Anna Laura Page



STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

Fall 2023

DECIDE TO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

Little has ever been accomplished without sacrifice. This is true in our homes, our work, our country, our church. Sacrifice is a necessary component of successful living.

And so it is with the Christian life and faith. Our salvation cost God the cross. Bonhoeffer rightly said there is no cheap grace.

Much of church giving is only token giving, averaging less than two percent of income. No wonder there is so little joy or satisfaction in it! We have given only what we could easily afford, not what we would really miss.

Experience shows that giving sacrificially is meaningful and joyful to the giver!

Each person determines what amount or percentage is sacrificial for their circumstances. Overall experience suggests that sacrificial giving begins at five percent of income, with lower proportions falling in the token giving category.

Church participation is often low, studies have shown, because personal investment in church is low – there is little sacrificial giving.

Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Luke 12:34**) Where is your treasure? That is where you will find your heart.

As we prepare to return our Statements of Intent for our generosity this year in worship today, remember that all 12 members of Council shared their excitement about our ministry moving forward by contributing to a challenge gift of \$6,000 for when we receive yours and 59 other intent cards. They invite you to join them by being just as generous and faithful.

Keeping our ministry strong will enable us to dream about an ever-growing ministry into the future. Take time this week to reflect on the ways in which connection to our ministry has impacted you and those you know and love in the past year and start dreaming about what God may be up to here moving forward.

Today's Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: George Miller
 Acolyte: Ben Keith
 Accompanist: Steve Moore
 Audio/Visual Technicians: John Rhodes and Paul Bagocius
 Chancel Guild: Corlene Coulter and Linda Smith
 Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
 Presiding Minister: Rev. William C. Weidenbach Jr.
 Reader: Nick Cignetti
 Trustees: John Long and Brian Milek
 Flowers by: Lou and Darlene Milavickas in loving memory of Otto & Grace Le Beau and Ellis & Anna Mae Le Beau

November 26, 2023 Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Ken Reinoehl
 Acolyte: Kenadi Medina
 Accompanist: Carol McKimm
 Audio/Visual Technicians: Linda Weidenbach and Chris Thompson
 Chancel Guild: Corlene Coulter and Linda Smith
 Child Care Attendant: Amelia Milek
 Presiding Minister: Rev. William C. Weidenbach Jr.
 Reader: Ruth Reinoehl
 Trustees: Brian Milek and Randy Elsass

Matthew 25:14-30
 Stewardship Moment from Pastor William



Dwelling in a world created with love and entrusted to our care

Stewardship in the Gospel

Jesus teaches about being so self-focused on how we spend God's money entrusted to our care that we short-change expanding God's kingdom. God entrusts God's money to our care and expects us to use a proper portion of it for God's purposes. Not a minimal portion, but a sacrificial portion.

Stewardship in our Community

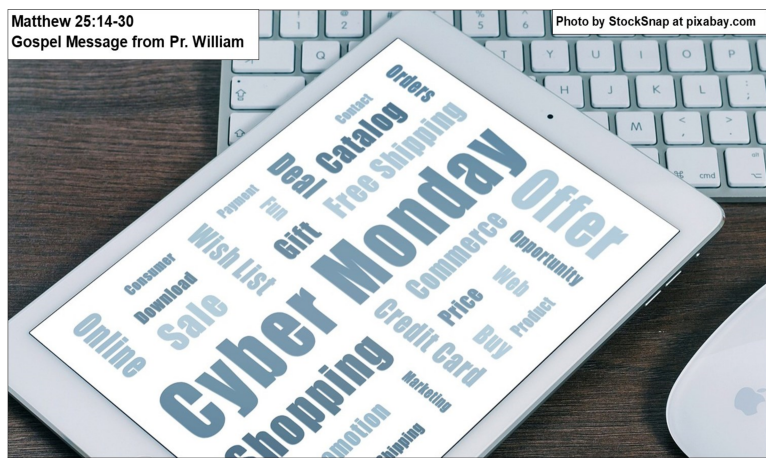
We are inundated with community expectations for how we spend God's money. We hear pleas to: buy this product, take this vacation, get a new car, purchase a bigger house, etc. But God says; you have enough, expand my kingdom, not your waistline, clothes closet or world travels.

Stewardship in practice

God trusts us to use God's money as God desires. We spend plenty on ourselves, but most of us spend very little on expanding God's kingdom. And here's the difficult part for most of us; if we are using the vast amount of our money on ourselves, we are stealing from God. How do you think God feels about that? What might God have to say to you about your spending?

Matthew 25:14-30
 Gospel Message from Pr. William

Photo by StockSnap at pixabay.com



Jesus tells another parable about what the kingdom of heaven is like (see Matthew 25:1-13 from last week). This time, it is about how we are entrusted with God's money and are expected to do something with it to expand God's kingdom. So, what are you doing with God's money entrusted to your care? Are you doing all the fun things you want, or are you ensuring that the proper percentage of God's money is being used as God wants? Truthfully, most of us are guilty of burying God's money in our own wants and desires.

The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church

MEN'S Ministry

Come join the Men of Zion for prayers and projects!
 Saturday, November 25 - 8:30am

COFFEE AND DONUT SOCIAL ~ SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

The Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church, continued

