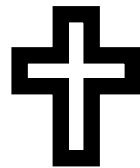


Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19th, 2023

9:00 am / 10:30 am

Communion



*280 Years of
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
Founded in 1743

Sunday, November 19th, 2023 – services led by Rev. Mike Poteet

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow card and add it to the plate.

INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

PRELUDES

9:00 am

On Tannenberg: "Come, Ye Thankful People"

Tune: St. George's, Windsor, Trans. William Stickles

On Piano: "Draw Me Close"

Kelly Carpenter, Arr. by Mark Hayes

On Allen Organ: "Sing to the Lord of the Harvest"

Johann Steurlein, Arr. Todd Kendall

10:30 am

On Piano: "Draw Me Close"

Kelly Carpenter, Arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Bulletins are sponsored: In honor of my Grandson, **Jackson**, on his 4th birthday! With lots of love and pride. GG (Laura Clark)

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" – ELW #632, vs. 1, 3, & 4



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

C: 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, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: 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, forgive us and grant us your mercy.


Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

C: Amen.


Glory to God in the Highest

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

R: Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps,

and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against
the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the
earth.

Psalm 90:1-12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Please stand

ACCLAMATION

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had

received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

You can add names to the prayer list by contacting the church office. After three weeks names will be removed from the prayer of intercession unless resubmitted. These people will still be in our private prayers.

A: 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.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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. We remember before you *especially Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Brookelyn Rogers, Matt Beam, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Rick Munz, Greg Wicker, Jeanette Kaufmann, Ashley Bazzley, Don Walt, the Rottman Family, Bill Hilbert, Ralph Metzger, Michael Bailey, Colleen Elliot, Cindy Batten, Bonnie Robins, and Robin Sexto.* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Thanksgiving Medley"

Arr. by Sandy Wilkinson

Zion Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

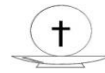
A: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ,
our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

Please stand



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

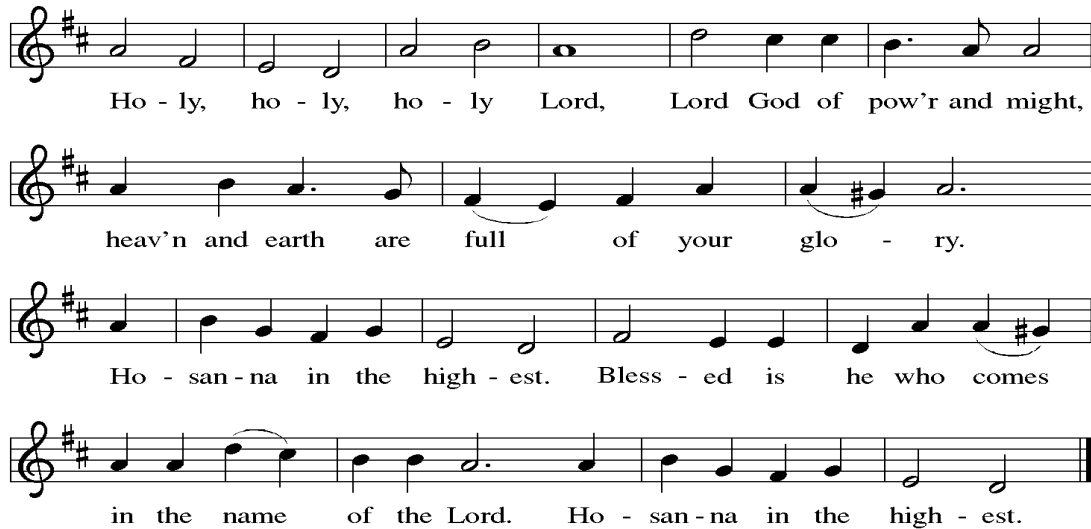
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

C: Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

P: This is the Body of Christ given for you

C: I believe or Amen (Congregation will eat the wafer)

P: This is the Blood of Christ given for you

C: I believe or Amen (Congregation will drink the wine)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#1 – "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW #461- All Verses

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, Music: W. Moore, Columbian Harmony

#1 – "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" ELW #484

Text: Omer Westendorf, Music: Robert E. Kreuz

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Praise and Thanksgiving" – ELW #689, All Verses



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDES

9:00

On Tannenberg: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

George J. Elvey, Arr. by Richard Unfried

10:30

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

Tune: Mit Freuden Sart, Arr. Lloyd Larson

Bible Readings for the Week

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday | Zechariah 1:7-17 | A vision of God's judgment and mercy |
| Tuesday | Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4 | Visions of mercy and judgment |
| Wednesday | Matthew 24:45-51 | Parable of the unfaithful slave |
| Thursday | Job 16:1-21 | A lament about unjust punishment |
| Friday | 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, 5:12-18 | The Christian life |
| Saturday | Psalms 9:1-14 | God's reward of the righteous |

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The Rev. Michael S. Poteet is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mike served as a church pastor in Clifton Heights, PA for seven years. He currently serves the larger church as a Christian education writer for Abingdon Press, and as a biblical storyteller and guest preacher. Mike invites your feedback at bibliomike.com/contact.

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Shawn Rogers, Christian Education Director & Sexton
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Online giving link: <https://www.zionofspringcity.org/electronic-giving/>

Zion Lutheran Pre-School

Dawn Platchek, Director, Phone: 610-948-3440, e-mail: info@zionlutheranpreschool.com

Parish Post for the Week of November 19th – 25th, 2023

Greetings everyone!

Thankful for 280 Years!

Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 and 10:30am

Service led by: Reverend Mike Poteet

CONGREGATION MEETING – SUNDAY NOV. 26TH

Upcoming:

Guest Pastor – **Nov. 19th, Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th am**

Thanksgiving – **November 23rd**

CONGREGATION MEETING – between the services, **Sunday Nov. 26th**

Spring City Pantry

The Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays 5:00-6:30pm & Thursdays 10:30am-Noon**

Donation ideas: Canned Meat (pork, beef, tuna, chicken), Personal Care Products

The Pantry is in specific need of Cereal and Macaroni & Cheese.

Thank you to all who continue to fill the shopping cart. Please be mindful that we cannot distribute outdated, previously opened or unlabeled products.

Greetings from the Music Director:

Praise Band started on 10/16 at 6:45 PM.

Bell Choir started on 10/23 at 7:45 AM, before the services

Adult Choir is 6:45 PM on Thursdays.

Social Ministry

Project Outreach Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Royersford Methodist Church.

We are truly blessed that so many of you want to help with the dinner. Since we are now serving dinner buffet style we have been asked to limit the number of volunteers. The following is what will be need on Thanksgiving Day.

1 greeter at the door

5 adults at the serving table {a child can assist with an adult}

4 dining room assistants: refilling gravy boats, water, assisting caring plates, serving desserts, clearing tables.

Help will also be needed Wednesday afternoon to set up the room.

A sign up sheet will be available for both opportunities. Any questions contact Susan Davis at sdavis72@verizon.net

Giving Tree Collection for Gemma Services

The Giving Tree will soon be showing up outside the sanctuary. There will be stars on the tree for you to pick for gifts. In the meantime, here is what Gemma Services can use to create a special holiday season for the hundreds of youth and families they serve.

\$25 Gift Cards to: Walmart, Target or Amazon

Art Sets (especially Crayola brand)

Sketch Books

Card Games (especially UNO and Phase 10)

Dolls (especially Barbie dolls, LOL dolls and Rainbow High dolls)

LEGO Sets

All gifts and gift cards must be dropped off at Zion by Sunday, November 26th.

Last year, Zion was able to donate about \$400 in gift cards, in addition to many dolls, toys and games. The Social Ministry Committee thanks you in advance for your help with this project.

Just a reminder! AA meets in our Fellowship Hall every **Monday** evening at **7pm**.

Christmas Eve is Coming Soon!

Council is asking for the Congregation's Choice for Christmas Eve Services – we will compile the results and go with the most requested time for the Evening Service.

PLEASE RESPOND TO ERIN WITH YOUR PREFERENCE: (email, sticky note, etc)

Congregation-Led:

6 pm Service

8 pm Service

10 pm Service
